THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE U. S. Sanitary Commission have long felt the need of some direct method of communication with their wide-spread constituency. Those who furnish the money and the supplies, by which our extensive ministry to the sick and wounded is maintained, have a right to more frequent and full accounts of what becomes of their charity than we have hitherto been able to give them. It is true, we have published a large number of documents containing this information, and distributed them widely; but they have necessarily lacked the freshness and the personal details which a less compendious and less formal account of our current operations would possess. A thousand intensely interesting particulars reach our several offices at Washington, Louisville and New York, which we are anxious should come to the knowledge of the people; and we propose in the BULLETIN to collect and report these pungent details fresh from the lips of our agents in the field and the hospital.

It is high time that an interest, now so rooted and grounded in its own methods as the U. S. Sanitary Commission, should possess an independent organ for the expression of its matured opinions in regard to the only safe and wise means of applying the gifts of the people to the relief of the Army. After all the careful discussion which the subject has received, there is constant danger of falling back into slovenly, wasteful, and injurious ways of supplying the wants of the soldiers. Only the most persistent and strenuous resistance to an impulsive benevolence, the most earnest and obstinate defence of a guarded and methodized system of relief, can save the public from imposition, and the Army from demoralization.

The health and safety of our soldiers require an organ, in which questions of Army-Hygeine can be discussed with sole reference to practical results. There is a steady tendency to the neglect or ignoring of preventive methods. The condition of our barracks, transports, and camps needs incessant watchfulness, and a perpetual cry of warning must be raised in the ear of the responsible civil and military authorities.

It is necessary, moreover, that the interest of the women of the country should be quickened anew in the work they have undertaken. We have warned them from the first that they were enlisted for the war; that their industry and self-sacrifice would be taxed to the utmost. There is no longer novelty or artificial excitement to sustain their activity. Only a steady principle of patriotic humanity can be depended on for continued labors in this holy cause. Thank God, there are thousands of noble women connected with our work, who for more than two years have given their best thoughts, and hours, and labor to the enterprise. Their zeal has outlived all superficial excitements. They go to their work, as the soldier goes to the front, or digs in the trench, or advances on the works of the enemy. It is their duty and their business while the war lasts. But ten thousand such noble women are not enough. They must be supported by a hundred thousand; yes, five hundred thousand other women of similar views and feelings, before our supplies can be accumulated in adequate quantities. Our machinery is in admirable order; our central reservoirs of supplies perfectly adapted to their purpose. It is only neces-

sary that, with the opening winter, every village Sewing Circle, or Soldiers' Relief Society, or Church, or Dorcas Association, should set itself about a systematic contribution of supplies to the central associations at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, or Louisville. This done, everything needed in the way of supplies can be easily and readily procured. If there is a jealous scattering of these resources, a little here and a little there, there will be a dreadful waste, and a melancholy abuse of the well-established principle of unity and economy.

Again, our moneyed men and institutions of wealth must see to it that the efficiency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission is not hampered by the want of abundant pecuniary resources. It is universally conceded that the efficiency of the Army has been vastly sustained by the watchful care of this Commission. It is not too much to say that our Generals in the field have come to depend upon it as a *sine qua non*. It is an established and indispensable part of the public service. The soldiers know it, and lean upon it as upon the Home-Arm. The nation has no right to withdraw this arm. It would not dare to do it outright. And yet, by allowing the strong muscles that have thus far held it out, gradually to contract and shrivel, they may, in effect, and without intending or knowing what they do, paralyze this arm, and find a withered hand where they thought they had a stalwart one outstretched. Nothing but a full treasury has given the U. S. Sanitary Commission its vigor and effectiveness. It has hitherto, for a long period of its existence, had a hundred thousand dollars at least in its treasury, between it and want. It cannot work with energy and success with a dollar less than this in reserve. In short, when it begins to spend the first dollar of its last hundred thousand, it must prepare to close its operations! It is not prudent nor possible for a body whose regular expenses are forty thousand dollars a month, to carry on its affairs systematically on the contingency of funds to come in. From this time, the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which sees its treasury already reduced to $125,000, and which, in one month, will see it below $100,000, must have a monthly subscription of at least $25,000 from the Loyal States, or its day is ended. All the supplies in the world will not obviate the want of money. The more supplies, the more the cost of properly and economically distributing them. We must maintain our machinery, or all the meal that comes to our mill will never be converted into bread for the soldier.

We purpose to make the BULLETIN the place where all information necessary to soldiers or to soldiers' families is to be found. Who are entitled to bounties and pensions, and how to procure them at the least expense, and with the most certainty; how furloughs are obtained; how our prisoners of war in the enemies' hands may be communicated with; how to get convalescents or sick men home; everything about the burial of the dead; these and similar questions will be carefully and reliably answered in our columns. The BULLETIN will be extensively circulated in the Army. It will also be sent to all our associate members—to all subscribers or donors to our funds—to every sewing circle contributing to our supplies—to such clergymen as apply for it for purposes of guiding their efforts—and to such other persons as we think fitted to use profitably, for the benefit of our sick and wounded, the information it contains.

It will be furnished also to subscribers, at $2.00 a year, and to single purchasers at 10 cents a copy.

It will be published twice a month, on the 1st and 15th of each month.

It is ardently desired that the ladies having charge of our home societies would send to the General Secretary such written suggestions or facts as they may think fitted to stir up other women to more abundant labors. Our inspectors and relief agents are admonished to keep notes of such incidents as have deeply interested them, and to forward them promptly to their respective chiefs, for the use of the BULLETIN.

All communications for "THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN" should be addressed to the Office of Publication, 823 Broadway, New York City.

REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *Oct. 6th*, 1863.

Rev. H. W. BELLOWS, D.D.,

President of the U. S. Sanitary Com'n:

SIR—Notified by you on the 16th of September of my election as General Secretary of the Commission, I accepted the trust, and have since, in anticipation of the present session of the Commission, been chiefly occupied in ascertaining the condition of its work throughout the country, and the probable requirements of its service in the future.

The present aspect of the work will best be exhibited to you in the reports herewith presented, from a consideration of which, and from the discussions of the scheme proposed by the Committee on organization and the Executive Committee for the partial reorganization of the work, the Commission will be enabled to determine what modifications it should direct for the future.

I may, however, be permitted to call the attention of the Commission directly to certain topics which seem to me worthy of their present consideration.

The question has been raised whether the Hospital Directory justifies by its usefulness the expenditure it occasions. The reports of Mr. Bowne, Superintendent of the Directory, and of Mr. Holbrook, of the Louisville office, present facts and considerations which may determine the Commission's action.

Should the Commission adopt that portion of the programme of work proposed by the Executive Committee, which divides the work of Relief and Inspection, assigning the latter only to the Sanitary Inspectors, directed by a Head not distracted by other duties, a renewed stimulus will be given to inspection and a greatly increased body of facts will accumulate, as data from which the Actuary should be expected to exhibit promptly, when called upon, the determined results of the particular analysis demanded. Unless the range of inquiry is kept restricted within unduly narrow limits, an increase of clerical force in the statistical department will be needed. I submit the question how far the plans of the Commission will admit of expansion in this direction.

The activity of other organizations, State and Federal, in presenting to the loyal communities the claims of their especial work of relief for the Army and Navy, has, in some quarters of the country, overshadowed a just apprehension of the work which is being more noiselessly, but perhaps not less thoroughly, done by the Sanitary Commission. In some instances grave misapprehension of the Commission's disposition and discouragement on the part of its friends, on account of supposed impairment of its usefulness, has been created by the too highly-colored statements put forth by the advocates of competing organizations.

It seems only just to those who have heretofore contributed money and stores to the Commission, that they be from time to time reassured by personal conference with one of its accredited agents as to the wisdom of its plans, and be enabled to exhibit to others its varied beneficence and its judicious methods. To more thoroughly and minutely inform the rural communities on the work and wants of the Commission, as well as to remove misunderstanding and to correct false statements, an increase of the force of canvassing agents, of late months much reduced, is recommended.

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The evident necessity of popularizing information as to the Commission's plans and practical workings more fully than it has heretofore been done in its octavo documents, is very apparent. The issue of the *Sanitary Reporter*, at Louisville, has done much in this direction. Though given largely to details of work west of the Alleghanies, it is believed to have excited a growing interest in the Commission in all the loyal States in which it has been distributed. The booklet, "What we did at Gettysburg," by a lady who served us and humanity there; and the story, from the journal of the Special Relief Agent, "The Lord will Provide," have already been enjoyed by hundreds who would never have

been induced to take up Document No. —. The Commission may think it well to consider whether or not it should open another avenue of communication to the heart of the people, by reviving the suspended project of the "Bulletin of the Sanitary Commission," or by affording in some other way the always welcome information of what is done for the Army.

Constant efforts to stimulate the flow of supplies of hospital food and clothing have resulted, during the quarter, in yielding to the Commission's storehouses about the average quarterly product of the past year, and there is little reason to doubt the continuance of this rate of supply. But this is not sufficient to relieve the Commission from the frequent necessity of considerable purchases in the commercial market, which fact may be adduced as another argument, not only for occasional appeals to the loyal people from the Commission, or its Committees, but also for the multiplication of wayside agencies through its district canvassers.

In accordance with your instructions, I, on the 24th of September, caused the oath of allegiance to the United States to be administered, in the following words, by a magistrate, to the employees of the Commission, assembled by order:

District of Columbia, }
County of Washington. }

We, the undersigned, of Washington County, D. C., do solemnly swear, on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, without any mental reservation, that we will, at any and all times hereafter, and under all circumstances, yield a hearty and willing support to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Government thereof; that we will not, either directly or indirectly, take up arms against said Government, nor aid those now in arms against it; that we will not pass without the lines now established by the Army of the United States, or hereafter from time to time to be established by said Army, nor hold any correspondence whatsoever with any person or persons beyond said lines so established by said Army of the United States, during the present rebellion, without permission from the Secretary of War; also, we will do no act hostile or injurious to the union of the States; that we will give no aid, comfort, or assistance to the enemies of the Government, either domestic or foreign.

Thirty-seven thus acknowledged their fealty—all who could be gathered. On the next day four others cheerfully took the oath, and one person who declined to do so was, by your order, discharged from the service. These forty-two persons constitute the whole number of individuals who are employed by the Commission in this city. The order has been given to the Acting Associate Secretary in the Eastern Department to cause the oath to be tendered to each person employed by the Commission in the Department, the alternative of promptly taking it being dismissal from the service.

I submit herewith a roster of persons in the service of the Commission, October 1st.

I present also the accompanying Reports. [See list at end of Reports.]

Respectfully submitted.

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

Gentlemen—In accordance with the request of Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, I beg leave to submit the following as my Report of the work of the Commission so far as it has come under my observation, during a temporary occupation of the Associate Secretary's desk.

On the 29th of July I reported in Washington, with the view of using it as headquarters for my operations in the Army of the Potomac. Dr. Douglas, who was then about starting off on a month's leave of absence, requested me to take charge of such duties as might require the consideration and direction of the Associate Secretary. I have acted in accordance with this request and an order of the Executive Committee (dated Sept. 15, 1863,) down to the present time.

Washington and Vicinity.—The Hospitals in Washington and Alexandria have been inspected very carefully by Inspector C. W. Brink, during the months of August and September. His reports, herewith submitted as Documents 1, 2 and 3, will show the exact condition of these Hospitals. They show improvements consequent upon increased knowledge and care on the part

of their officers, and will now compare favorably with the best Military Hospitals which the Medical Department has established for the accommodation of the sick and wounded soldiers of our great Army. Our Hospital Visitor (Dr. G. C. Caldwell) has made stated visits to them all, and issues of stores have been freely made from our local storehouse on requisitions of the surgeons, in accordance with the advice of Dr. Caldwell. The requisitions of the surgeons have been invariably required in order to avoid the injury to discipline which an indiscriminate distribution of stores, through the hands of irresponsible persons, always produces.

In the early portion of September, reports having reached the office concerning the sickness of the camps occupied by the 10th N. Y. Artillery, Dr. C. W. Brink was ordered to make special inquiry into the causes of the ill-health prevailing, and to endeavor to have such changes in location as good sanitary principles would indicate. The result of his inspection is to be found in Document 4.

Annapolis, Md.—Inspector Nichols having been ordered from the Department of Norfolk, reported at the Central Office, Aug. 5. After a few days spent in preparing an account of his work at Norfolk, he was sent to Annapolis, with the view of making an inspection of the Camps and Hospitals at that place. That inspection (comprised in Document 5) will show how shockingly unfit for the accommodation of men was the camp then employed for paroled men. It is a subject of congratulation that this disgrace to the nation has been abolished; that our paroled prisoners are at present located in comfortable barracks on a new camping-ground; and that much of the destructive tendency to body and spirit which surrounded the old camp no longer exists in the new location. The life of a paroled prisoner is one of a dispiriting character. He cannot occupy himself with the daily occupations of a soldier's life—his parole prevents that. Consequently, unless some employment, either mental or physical, be furnished him, he becomes a trifling, worthless man—not fitted for the duties either of a soldier or a citizen. Athletic games, and all the varied drills of a gymnasium, would do away with much of the exhausting *ennui* of Camp Parole. A hundred dollars spent in putting up gymnastic apparatus would be the means of saving the health and the morals of many men now undergoing a process of demoralization and enfeeblement. Would not the establishment of a Gymnasium at Camp Parole be a subject worthy of effort on the part of the Commission?

A word is due here to a representative of the Commission on duty at Camp Parole Hospital. Miss Clara Davis, of Philadelphia, has acted as our representative for four months, taking under her special charge the low-diet kitchen. The testimony of patients and surgeons represents the attentions of this kind-hearted, Christian woman as most acceptable to the men. In this retired place she has devoted herself—administering to the wants and needs of suffering humanity. No words can express the value of such work—they seem at best but feeble mockery when used to describe the self-sacrifice of one who devotes her days to smoothing the pillow of the invalid and extending the little attentions which a mother or a sister would offer the sufferer.

In order to meet a want which has existed for some time in this region, a resting-place or temporary home for the wives and female relatives of the inmates of the Hospitals, the Special Relief Agent has established a "Home" in Annapolis, where they may obtain food and lodging. Of this he will doubtless report to you at length.

Convalescent Camp, Virginia.—I ask the attention of the Commission to the Report of Miss Bradley (Document 5½) on the operations in this Camp, which have been conducted by her as a Special Relief Agent. She has labored untiringly to have abuses redressed, and by her personal exertions has made many a soldier feel that, though absent from home, he was not without friends. Her own simple statement of the nature of her work may well cause surprise that she has accomplished so much by her own efforts. Such agents are an honor to the Commission, through whose auspices they labor in the cause of the soldier.

Special Relief Department.—The operations of this Department have continued

to be of their usual important character. These have been attended to, during the absence of the Chief, by his indefatigable assistant, Mr. J. B. Abbott. They comprise altogether different classes of cases from those coming under the eye of the Corps Relief Agent. The latter distributes under the eye of the Medical Officer, and mostly on his requisition, while the relief agent from the Special Department goes directly to the needy without any such intermediation. My observation of this Department makes me anxious that the most liberal encouragement should be tendered it by the Commission. These special cases can only be properly relieved by those who are trained through an every-day experience, extending through months of close observation, so as to prevent help being extended to the unworthy, or help being kept from the deserving.

Soldier's Lodge in Alexandria.—The Special Relief Department is mentioned in this general way, because a more particular report belongs to another officer. I may, however, mention more particularly one establishment belonging to this Department, as it was established during my term of service, and more especially for the use of the sick and wounded of the Army of the Potomac—I refer to the Soldier's Rest, in Alexandria. This may be considered as holding a relation to the Army of the Potomac analogous to that of the Lodge at Aquia, when the army was opposite Fredericksburg. Finding that numbers of sick and wounded were arriving in Alexandria, and were exposed to much privation on their arrival, I dispatched Mr. James Richardson to ascertain what could be done towards establishing a house for temporary relief. He found in Col. J. H. Devereux, the Superintendent of Military Railroads and Transportation, a willing appreciator of all our plans, and one very willing to aid in their execution. A building was appropriated for the purpose of a Soldier's Lodge, and through the assistance and liberality of Col. Devereux, one of the neatest and most useful Lodges now maintained by the Commission has been placed upon a firm and secure basis. I refer to Mr. Richardson's own report for a very lucid account of the establishment of this Lodge, (Document 6.) Mr. Edgerly's report of its operations from August 13 to September 20 (Document 7) will give an idea of the benefits that have already resulted.

Physiological Examination of Soldiers.—The examinations and measurements of soldiers, for the collection of materials in the Department of Vital Statistics, have been continued at Camp Barry by Messrs. Buckley and Balch. Mr. E. B. Fairchilds has been engaged on like duty at Davids Island, with the Confederate prisoners confined there. By permission of Col. Hoffman, Commissary-General of Prisoners, he will go to Pt. Lookout as soon as transportation can be procured, with a view of prosecuting this work to a greater extent than was possible at Davids Island. The deductions to be made from these measurements being likely to prove of the greatest possible benefit to military and sanitary science, I advise their continuance for at least three months longer. It is only by a large quantity of data that we shall be in condition to discuss their value, and to arrive at reliable results.

Baltimore.—In Baltimore the storehouse has been in charge of Mr. J. T. Pancoast, who has worked with a zeal and honesty of purpose worthy of all imitation, not only in the discharge of his duties as Depot Agent, but as Hospital Visitor. This agency has been of immense importance, as many of the supplies forwarded to Gettysburg and Frederick, during and after the Confederate invasion of the loyal States, were purchased in Baltimore, where Mr. Knapp had located his headquarters for this special purpose. In this complicated business Mr. Pancoast always proved to be most valuable as an aid. The Special Relief Department in Baltimore has been in charge of Mr. Bullard.

A full examination of the Hospitals of Baltimore was made, in accordance with orders from this office, by Inspector Julius Nichols, early in the month of September. From an examination of this (Document 8) a very excellent idea may be obtained of the present condition and capacity of these Hospitals.

Hospitals at Hagerstown, Boonsborough, and Harper's Ferry.—The Hospitals at Hagerstown, Boonsborough, Harper's

Ferry, and Maryland Heights, have been visited at stated terms by Messrs. Hiram Schisler and John C. Stranahan, and such wants as were discovered were freely supplied from the storehouse at Frederick. This storehouse will be closed in a few days, as the necessity for its continuation has ceased. During the twelve months of its existence it has disbursed many thousands of dollars worth of stores to the wounded of the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and to the needy and sick of the army within a circle of 30 miles radius, since the occurrence of these memorable battles. Its mission has, however, been closed, and I hope the changing fortunes of war will not necessitate its re-establishment. The soldiers have had abundant cause to bless the beneficence of the loyal people, who enabled the Commission to furnish it so abundantly, that all wants of the army, as fast as they have been made known, have been supplied.

Norfolk and Vicinity.—On the 5th of August I ordered Mr. James Gall, Jr., to proceed to Norfolk and take charge of our relief work in that Department. He has faithfully performed the duties of Relief Agent since that date, acquiring much credit for himself and the Commission by his indefatigable labors. His Reports, eight in number, furnished this office weekly, will show how faithfully and with what good results he has labored. (See Documents 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.)

The sick-rate at Norfolk having increased to 30 per cent., I deemed it important to direct the attention of the Acting Surgeon-General to this important fact. He immediately had a medical inspection made of the Department, and adopted measures to obviate, as far as possible, the causes of disease. Although the sick-rate increased to between 40 and 50 per cent., still I have the happiness now to state that this rate is diminishing. We have issued largely to all the hospitals and regiments in the Department, having been able to keep up the supplies through the propeller Elizabeth, placed under our orders by the Q. M. Department. These supplies have included large quantities of antiscorbutics and the other articles comprised on our supply list.

The arrival of negro troops in this Department, and the existence of camps of contrabands, some in Government employ and others only receiving Government support, demanded instructions as regards the policy of the Commission in this respect. I ordered Mr. Gall to furnish to troops (without reference to color) our supplies on requisitions of medical officers, and to aid moderately sufferers in employ of Quartermasters and Commissaries; but also that beyond these two classes of persons, in my opinion, the supplies of the Commission could not be extended. As this has been the policy of the Commission in the past, so far as I understand it, I presume my action will be approved, as regards the department of Norfolk. It has, at least, given satisfaction thus far.

Mr. Gall has done essential service to us by his efforts to effect the release of our officers who were in the hands of the Confederates. The Report of Dr. Douglas on the battles of Gettysburg contained a full account of the seizure of these officers. Efforts were made to obtain their release, through petitions from Confederate surgeons in our lines, addressed to Gen. Robert Lee, private letters from citizens of the District of Columbia to their friends in Richmond, and a direct communication from myself (dated Aug. 28, 1863) to Robert Ould, Esq., Confederate Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners. To these efforts must be added the valuable services of Gen. Meredith, the U. S. Commissioner. Mr. Gall aided in all these, and finally, on the 22d ult., the trivial technicalities on which these officers were retained being removed, they were delivered to Gen. Meredith, and once more breathed loyal air. Mr. Alfred Brengle has, however, still been retained by the Confederate Government, under plea that he was seized because he had conveyed stores to a beleaguered post.

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Newbern, North Carolina.—Dr. J. M. Page, Sanitary Inspector, assisted by Mr. Page as Storekeeper, has charge of this District. No letters or Reports have been received from there during my term of service, excepting regular transmissions of accounts of stock and lists of sick and wounded for the Directory.

Beaufort and Morris Island.—Dr. M. M. Marsh, assisted by Mrs. Marsh, has been in charge of this District. His communications have shown how indispensable have been the supplies which the Commission has furnished to the troops engaged in active operations on Morris Island, and how these have been received by the soldiers as well as officers. General Gilmore has issued a special commendatory order with reference to the efficiency of the Commission, and Dr. Marsh has received full assurances from him of the acceptability of our work. As Dr. Douglas has made a recent inspection of this District, and as all the supplies have been forwarded directly from New York, I pass over this portion of my report, presuming that full information will be furnished from other sources.

New Orleans.—Inspector G. A. Blake has been in charge of this District. It is probable that the Army of this Department will be employed in a movement towards the occupation of Texas. A wide sphere for the operations of the Sanitary Commission will thus be opened up.

Western Virginia.—Finding that the troops under General Kelly's command occupying stations and camps from Cumberland eastward to Point of Rocks were in need of supplies, I ordered Dr. Julius Nichols to inspect these troops, and to report their needs as they met his eye in his course of inspection. He has already made requisitions to meet the wants of the Hospitals in Cumberland and Martinsburg. Thence he goes westward, and will return here next week and report the result of his inspection. Should his report be ready before the adjournment of the Commission, I will send it in for your consideration. [This report was made at the close of the session.]

The Army of the Potomac.—The first labors of the Commission were directed to its sanitary condition, and when the work of furnishing relief to the needy and suffering was undertaken as a part of the Commission's duties, it began the work in this Army with a zeal that has continued down to the present time undiminished in its day of defeat or triumph. Early in May, 1863, the operations of the Commission in the Army were consigned to the care of the present writer, which has been continued to the date of the present report, excepting so much as had reference to the operations for a few weeks after the battle of Gettysburg. Dr. J. H. Douglas, one of the Associate Secretaries, was in charge at the latter place during the period to which reference is made, returning the duty to my hands afterwards.

With the view of meeting wants as they might arise in the field, and of preventing that suffering peculiar to armies separated from their base of supplies, the Field Relief Corps was reorganized shortly after the battle of Gettysburg. A special report has been made on the subject of this organization to the Executive Committee, which is now passing through the printer's hands. The design is to have a corps of gentlemen acting as relief agents, each in a separate corps, furnished with his own means of transportation, and lodging in the field. We have been peculiarly fortunate in our selections. The agents are welcomed as co-laborers in the great war of law and right by the officers. They furnish the needed articles just where they are needed, and personally superintend the distribution, keeping an eye always to the proper use of what they have issued. While laboring for the good of the whole Army, each feels a special pride in seeing that his own special family—the Corps to which he belongs—is kept in the best possible condition. He feels a generous spirit of rivalry towards his fellow-agents, and is not willing that his own work should be, in any manner, inferior to that of his brethren. By a system of weekly reports made to the Chief Inspector, the latter is enabled to control the whole movement of the Corps and to keep up a complete knowledge of the perfection or imperfection of the machinery employed. A package of these reports is herewith submitted to the inspection of the Commission, so that an idea may be gained of the ability of the men employed in this work. Much information is acquired in these reports that has heretofore been furnished by the formal inspection of our inspectors. They have frequently served as a basis of action in regard to the sanitary condition of regiments, as well as the nature of the supplies demanded by the troops.

The promptness with which our agents make their appearance when needed may be well illustrated by an extract from the last Report of the Agent of the Second Army Corps, which was on the advance when the movement was made towards Culpepper. He says: "During the last two weeks of movements, I have the satisfaction of knowing that my wagon was always ahead of any other means of relief; that I dispensed relief to wounded cavalry from the front within an hour after their wounds were received. While our own team was in motion I have passed out articles to surgeons in charge of ambulance trains returning from the front." * * * * * * *

The Medical Inspector of this Army says, "We could not do without the Commission; it furnishes so many things which cannot be obtained from Government." The Medical Director says, "It gives me no trouble; there is no interference."

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With the view of obtaining materials for the discussion of *the effects of long marches and inadequate food on troops*, Inspector W. S. Swalm has been detailed, in accordance with a plan agreed upon by the Chief of the Statistical Department and myself, for this duty. He has nearly completed an examination of two corps, having made between sixty and eighty inspections of regiments. Should any change of plans in the Army bring on another engagement before this work is completed, the data already obtained by Dr. S. will be of the greatest possible importance; but their value will be much enhanced should he be enabled to finish this work.

Gettysburg.—Our work with the wounded continues to the present time. Dr. Gordon Winslow, formerly Chaplain of Duryea's Zouaves, was placed, by Dr. J. H. Douglas, in charge of the operations at this place. Samuel Bacon, Jr., has been acting as Storekeeper. This depot has been invaluable. In addition to the enormous distribution of stores mentioned in Dr. Douglas' Report, (Document 71,) the issues have been very large down to the present time. As soon as a want was detected—and Dr. Winslow seems to have been Argus-eyed in this particular—it has been supplied. We have purchased, on Hospital Fund account, everything required for the Hospital which was not obtainable from the Commissary. The bills for these purchases, amounting to over $3,000 up to August 15, were paid by the Commissary. Since that time these purchases have amounted to between $3,000 and $4,000. They will also be paid by the Commissary.

In order to show the esteem in which the Commission is held by medical officers at Gettysburg, the following paper has been signed by them:

Camp Letterman Hospital,
Near Gettysburg, Sept. 26th, 1863.

The undersigned, surgeons and assistant surgeons of the General Hospital near Gettysburg, take pleasure in expressing our gratification at the manner in which the affairs of the Sanitary Commission have been managed in this place since the late battle. The supplementary articles for the sick and wounded soldiers have been abundant, comprising every requisite which the exigency demanded, and which nothing but a well-regulated system, with much experience and forethought, could have secured. We are furthermore convinced that the system adopted by the Sanitary Commission of disbursing their supplies only on the requisition of a surgeon, is the only proper and safe method. Any other course necessarily supposes an extra force, which is calculated to cumber the hospital with irresponsible attendants, distract the public benefactions, if not divert them from a just and equal distribution among the patients for whom they are intended.

Henry Janes, Surg. U. S. V. In charge of Hospital, Gettysburg.
E. N. Chamberlain, Surg. U. S. V. In charge General Hospital.
S. W. Oakley, Surg. U. S. V., and Acting Medical Purveyor.
J. D. Osborne, Surg. 4th N. J. V., and Executive Officer of Camp.
W. F. Breakey, Assistant Surg. 16th Mich. Infantry.
H. C. May, Assistant Surg. 145th Regiment, N. Y. V.
J. B. Sturdevant, Assistant Surg. Penn. Vols.
Chas. S. Gauntt, M.D., A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.

B. F. Butcher, A. A. Surg,, U. S. A.
J. A. M'Arthur, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.
W. L. Hays, A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.
H. H. Sutton, A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.
E. P. Townsend, A. A. S., U. S. A.
Albert B. Stonelake, Ass't Surg. U. S. A.; in charge of 7th Division.
D. R. Good, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.
P. S. Leisenring, A. A. Surg., U. S. A.

Hospital Visiting.—This subject is so well treated in the Report of Dr. Caldwell that I can do no better than to direct attention of the Commission to the same. I must, however, give my testimony in favor of the honest and conscientious manner in which Dr. Caldwell has executed the delicate duties of a Hospital Visitor. He has temporarily retired from its duties, expecting to resume the same during the coming month. Until that time his place will be supplied by some other employee of the Commission.

Issues.—I submit an account of the issues made during the months of August and September from the Washington Storehouse. This will enable the Commission to understand how large the issues have been. Further particulars as to the directions these issues have taken may be obtained from the books of the Central Office.

The issues from the storehouses have been very large, in consequence of our systematic plan of visiting the armies near Washington, and more especially the Army of the Potomac. As the result of this our stock of some woolen goods is becoming low, and in the item of stimulants we have been obliged to purchase largely, but (I believe) on fair terms, in the Washington market. I am satisfied that the amount misused is now as near the *minimum* as is possible. The agents are, as a general thing, careful in this respect, and from experience have learned whom to trust.

In closing this Report, I must express my belief that the Commission has done all that could have been reasonably expected from it during the last two months; and that more may be expected hereafter in consequence of the experience acquired in the past, if a sufficient amount of supplies and funds be placed at its command. Officers are working with a quiet enthusiasm which could not be obtained for money, or any other reward; and every employee will find it a source of incalculable pleasure, in the future, that he once labored in its ranks, at the command of a great people, whose souls' heartiest wish and desire was that no suffering should exist in the Army of the Union which might be prevented by anything procurable through money or kind words.

With due respect,
Your humble servant,
LEWIS H. STEINER,
Chief Inspector A. of P.,
Acting Associate Secretary.

Washington, Oct. 1, 1863.

REPORT OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY BUREAU.

Sanitary Commission,
Oct. 1, 1863.

To Dr. J. Foster Jenkins,
Gen'l Sec'y:

Sir—In my last Report, of June 9th, I had the satisfaction of saying that the Hospital Directory of the U. S. Sanitary Commission was receiving regular returns from every General Hospital of the U. S. Army. This remark still holds good. I have to report no increase in the number of Hospitals from which Reports are received at the Central Office, or its several branches.

The number of names recorded on the books of the Hospital Directory from June 9th to Oct. 1st have been as follows:

At the Washington Office	64,635
" New York "	18,771
" Philadelphia "	12,213
" Louisville, from May 9..	96,433
Total	192,052
Add number of names on record June 9th	215,221
And we have a grand total of..	407,273

Recorded as follows:

Washington Office, to Oct. 1, '63				169,007
New York	"	"	"	27,320
Philadelphia	"	"	"	24,513
Louisville	"	"	"	186,433
Total				407,273

The number of applications for information and the number of answers rendered, from the organization of the Directory to Oct. 1, 1863, have been as follows:

Washington Office,	No. Inq.	6,712	No. Ans.	4,524
New York	"	"	656	"	474
Philadelphia	"	"	547	"	348
Louisville	"	"	5,852	"	4,016
Total No. Inq.		13,767	Tot. Ans.	9,362

The Monthly Abstract Sheets are being regularly tabulated, as reported in my last, and as the new form of the Morning Report from Hospitals recently recommended by the Surgeon-General is being adopted throughout the Army, the continuation of this branch of the Hospital Bureau will require an increase of the clerical force of two, and perhaps four, competent persons for the work of tabulating.

The tabulated returns of casualties as rendered to this Bureau, of the actions at Gettysburg and Morris Island, July 18th, are herewith presented.

An interesting incident, showing how the Hospital Directory can be of aid to the soldier, has just transpired.

One —— ——, Co. C, 64th Regiment New York Volunteers, has by the death of relatives abroad become heir to a fortune of half a million of dollars. But where is private ——? He has not been heard from for a long time, and it is not known whether he is alive or not. It was suggested that the Sanitary Commission be applied to for information.

The reply to the inquiry was as follows: —— ——, Co. C, 64th Regiment, New York Volunteers, was admitted to U. S. General Hospital, Camp A, Frederick, Md., Nov. 26th, 1862, transferred to Camden St. Hospital, Baltimore, May 17, 1863, and again transferred to Fort Schuyler Hospital, New York, April 24, 1863. On the 17th July following, he was detached to the 1st Battalion Invalid Corps, and is now on duty at Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN BOWNE,

Superintendent Hospital Directory.

REPORT OF SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

CENTRAL OFFICE, U. S. SANITARY COM'N,

October 1st, 1863.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary:

SIR—My last report upon Special Relief was dated December 15th, 1862. The present report furnishes the statistics of the work from that time to the present date, October 1st, 1863, a period of nine and a half months.

The main purpose kept in view in this work of Special Relief for the past two years has been this, as indicated by previous reports:

First. To supply to the sick men of the newly arrived regiments such medicines, food, and care as it is impossible for them to receive, in the midst of the confusion, and with the unavoidable lack of facilities, from their own officers. The men to be thus aided are those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a general hospital, and yet need immediate care to guard them against serious sickness.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging; care and assistance to men who are honorably discharged from service, sent from general hospitals, or from their regiments, but who are often delayed a day or more in the city, sometimes many days before they obtain their papers and pay.

Third. To communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men whose certificates of disability or descriptive lists on which to draw their pay prove to be defective—the invalid soldiers meantime being cared for, and not exposed to the fatigue and risk of going in person to their regiments to have their papers corrected.

Fourth. To act as the unpaid agent or attorney of discharged soldiers who are too feeble or too utterly disabled to present their own claim at the paymaster's office.

Fifth. To look into the condition of discharged men who assume to be without means to pay the expense of going to their homes; and to furnish the necessary means where we find the man is true and the need real.

Sixth. To secure to disabled soldiers railroad tickets at reduced rates, and, through an agent at the railroad station, see that these men are not robbed or imposed upon by sharpers.

Seventh. To see that all men who are discharged and paid off do at once leave the city for their homes; or, in cases where they have been induced by evil companions to remain behind, to endeavor to res-

cue them, and see them started with through-tickets to their own towns.

Eighth. To make reasonably clean and comfortable before they leave the city, such discharged men as are deficient in cleanliness and clothes.

Ninth. To be prepared to meet at once with food or other aid, such immediate necessities as arise when sick men arrive in the city in large numbers from battle-fields or distant hospitals.

Tenth. To keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers who are out of hospitals, yet not in service; and give information to the proper authorities of such soldiers as seem endeavoring to avoid duty or to desert from the ranks.

On this basis of objects aimed at, I report concerning the work during the past nine months in general terms:

1. Most of these old methods of relief have been continued with satisfactory success.

2. Some new methods of relief have been resorted to, which, in their practical working, have justified their introduction.

3. The class of men rightfully claiming this Special Relief assistance of the Commission has enlarged, embracing with those to whom help was previously given, others whose newly-developed or increasing needs naturally brought them under our care.

4. The arrangements which are made by the Commission in this direction (Special Relief) has evidently become still more generally known, and applied for, and appreciated throughout the Army.

5. The co-operation of the Medical Department of the Army, as also of the Quartermaster's, Commissary's and Paymaster's Departments, has been still more ready and cordial even than before.

6. The cost of maintaining this branch of the Commission's work during the past nine (9) months has somewhat diminished relatively to the number of men who have been assisted, and the amount of assistance rendered to them; although the total amount is about one-half larger than in an equal term of time before.

7. While nine (9) months ago the direct call upon the Commission for help from disabled discharged soldiers, after they had returned to their homes, was but infrequent, it has now so largely increased (through applications made to the Special Relief Office) as to justify me in presenting to you in detail—appended to this report—some of the facts of the case, as also some statistics which I have collected bearing upon the subject; and to call your attention to the urgent necessity which evidently exists for having, from some source as early as possible, a comprehensive and practical system matured and instituted, which will provide for this class of men; unless we would have throughout the community a host of mendicants who, pointing to their honorable wounds and disabled bodies, will have established their necessity and right to live upon the charity of the people.

Having made these general statements, I will now report, in detail, but briefly as may be, upon the several branches of Relief;—and first, at Washington:

1st. "*The Home*," 374 *North Capitol Street.*—Increased accommodations for securing room and comfort at the Home, referred to in my last report, have been obtained; and now, instead of 140 beds, we have at the Home 320, besides a large baggage-room, a convenient washroom, a bath-house, &c. Two of the additional buildings, one 16 feet by 60, the other 28 feet by 90, were put up by the Quartermaster's Department. The third building, 30 feet by 50 (with an L 20 by 35) for a "Hospital," this was at the expense of the Commission, at a cost of about $800. The necessity for this building, devoted exclusively to Hospital purposes, is found in the fact, that although the men who come under the care of the Commission are mostly on their way to their homes, and might therefore be supposed to be not so very feeble as to need specially "Hospital" treatment, yet, as a matter of fact, many of them are weakened to such a degree by disease, that by the time they reach Washington, or the railway station from the front, or from the various hospitals, their strength is nearly exhausted, and they are only restored, if at all, by such care as hospital treatment affords; and frequently they are too far gone to make even that available, as is indicated by the record, which shows that from February 23d to October

1st, there were received at the Home 665 men, very sick, who were placed in the new Hospital, of which number thirty-eight died there. This was from February 23d, when this new building was opened; but dating back to December 15th, there has been under the charge of the Commission, including those just named, some 900 men who were very sick and feeble, of which number a total of sixty-one (61) have died at the Home. These were nearly all men having their discharge papers with them, and they had, consequently, given up their claim upon the General or Regimental Hospitals, and had taken the first stage of their journey towards their homes. If they had not found the care which the Commission thus offered to them, these same men must have died in the cars along the way, or at some stopping-point on their journey. Of the remaining 840 of these very feeble men, we have reason to believe that many, except for the care and rest secured to them by the provision of the Commission, could not have lived through their journeys.

This unusually large proportion of very sick or dying men who came into our hands is accounted for by the fact, that at the time of the advance movement of the Army in the spring, and the breaking up of the Corps Hospitals near Aquia Creek, discharge papers were granted to many soldiers who, in their earnest desire once more to reach their homes, counted upon more strength than was left to them, and so they came to us, and waited there till, with straining eyes, and one hand reached out towards the friends they had hoped and longed to see, they died. And allow me here to record this fact, that although these men died thus waiting, hoping, watching to catch the light which almost fell upon them from their firesides at home, yet from the lips of no one of those sixty dying men has a murmur or complaint been heard; tender messages did they leave to be sent on, but not one word of repining at their fate; no syllable of regret that they had joined the ranks—discharged from the service they were, but soldiers still—they died in their country's cause.

In charge of this "Home Hospital" is an experienced and kindly nurse as Matron, Miss Charlotte Bradford, who served faithfully last summer upon the "Hospital Transports;"—there are day and night watchers, and all facilities for giving cheerfulness and comfort to these men detained by the way.

The surgeon now in charge of the Home is Dr. T. B. Smith, whose report accompanies this; his labors are successful. Dr. Smith is also Medical Examiner for Pensions, for the Commission. The former surgeon in charge, Dr. Grymes, who for nearly a year and a half had given his whole soul and strength to the work, died in January last. He was at his post almost till the hour of his death, though too feeble to walk without support. He had a loyal and a loving heart, and the Commission as well as the soldiers certainly have cause to remember him with the deepest, tenderest gratitude.

In order to show more in detail the work of the "Home," I make the following extracts from the Report of Dr. Smith, included in the Report of Mr. J. B. Clark, the Superintendent:

"On many occasions, either during my visits to the sick, or just previous to their departure for home or their regiments, have soldiers spontaneously, and with emotions of gratitude, exclaimed, 'Doctor, this is very unexpected kindness,' 'I have seen no such care and comfort since leaving my home.' One recently said to me, while sitting in the Hospital and looking upon the completion of arrangements for his departure, 'Doctor, I have been so kindly treated here, and been helped so much more than at any time before, since my sickness, that I am almost afraid to go beyond that door.' These are a few of many grateful expressions which the comfort they have enjoyed has called forth from the soldiers under treatment in this Hospital; and not from these only; for we keep at the Home constantly a supply of beds, stretchers, and comforts of all kinds, to be placed on board the cars when needed there—articles which are daily sent for from the railroad station, where notice is given that all these aids are ready, near by, for any sick soldier who needs them on his journey.

That the community at large are only partially informed of the character and

amount of good work done in this institution, I am well satisfied, judging from the expressions of favorable surprise made by citizen visitors and relatives of soldiers who come in from abroad, and thus see and judge for themselves. The procuring of pay, pensions, and transportation for the men while they lie comfortably in the Hospital under treatment, would alone be accomplishing much, the omission of which would cause indescribable suffering, and loss and anxiety to the disabled soldier."

"Many within the past four months have reached the 'Home' in a dying condition. Such have invariably, I believe, been carefully watched; their own names, and parents' or friends' names and residences obtained and recorded; their effects secured, labeled, and stored away safely. When thought wise, on account of time requisite to reach this city, their friends have been informed of all these circumstances by telegraph. The dead are in all instances afforded a proper burial in the Government grounds, and each grave properly designated; or, if so requested by friends, the bodies are forwarded."

"In June last many of the two years' regiments went home, and on their way through this city, their wounded and sick who were too feeble to go forward with the regiments, entered our little Hospital. Over 120 have in this way either stopped, to be subsequently properly disposed of in General Hospitals, or simply to have their wounds dressed and eat a meal, to invigorate them for the tiresome railroad journey before them."

"The doors of the 'Home' are open night and day; yet vigilant watch is kept, not to harbor any man who ought to be with his regiment, or reporting to some Medical Officer. Otherwise, the 'Home' would quickly become what of course there is, as we are ready to acknowledge, apparent and real danger of its becoming, unless wisely managed, viz., *a philanthropic interference* with Army discipline, pleading its humanity as an excuse for its intrusion. To unite tender kindness and cordial welcome with the exercise of a discriminating judgment, and often stern authority, is not easy; but I believe that in our Special Relief work the presence of the one does not exclude the working of the other, and that not the soldier only, but the Army, is the stronger because of the 'Home.' The name of every man who enters there is recorded, his papers examined, and how he came there, found out. Whenever there is a doubt about the man, a thorough investigation of his case is at once made, which sometimes results in turning over to the military authorities deserters, and men who think that within the walls of a charitable institution they can find a ready shelter for a mean shirking of duty.

"I enter this record because it is needed to answer the honest objection which, on the ground of its 'tendency to weaken military discipline,' might be made to the fundamental principle on which the Special Relief work of the Sanitary Commission is based, and on which the Homes and Lodges, scattered now all over the East and West, are founded. The authority and importance of military discipline are not set aside or lost sight of; on the contrary, they are always rigidly insisted upon. In this work the Sanitary Commission, as the representatives of the people at home, seeks to do precisely what it believes would gladly be done—were it right or possible to enter into this kind of work—by the Military and Medical authorities themselves, under the administration which the people all so cordially desire to support."

To turn again to the records of the Home.

Number of different individuals received there from Dec. 15th, 1862, to October 1st, 1863	7,187
Number of nights' lodging furnished	26,523
Number of meals furnished	65,621

Almost all the men received here have been men discharged from the service on account of disability, wounds, or continued sickness. Of these, one-half at least were delayed in the city on account of imperfections in some of their discharge papers, the final statements, on which to draw their pay, requiring often a number of days for their correction.

The Superintendent's report divides the 7,187 men received recently at the Home as follows:

Maine	374
New Hampshire	194

Vermont	177
Massachusetts	865
Rhode Island	63
Connecticut	152
New York	2,063
New Jersey	410
Pennsylvania	1,658
Delaware	29
Maryland	35
Virginia	36
California	3
Michigan	259
Ohio	178
Indiana	118
Illinois	55
Wisconsin	199
Minnesota	10
Colorado	3
District of Columbia	5
U. S. Army, (Regulars)	262
U. S. Navy	1
Quartermaster's Department	8
Political Refugees	7
Contract Nurses	53

Next in order after the "Home" is *Lodge No.* 2, in "17th" Street: this was no longer needed, and was closed in March; larger accommodations more centrally situated rendered its continuance unnecessary.

Number of nights' lodging given them from Dec. 15th to March 12th	1,550
Number of meals	2,130

Lodge No. 3, in "F" Street. When this Lodge was built, the office for the payment of discharged soldiers was near by, in "F" St.; that office having been removed to "H" St., this Lodge has been closed: (it now is used as the local storehouse of the Commission, and furnishes excellent accommodations.)

From Dec. 15th until it was closed, this Lodge furnished nights' lodging	3,760
Meals	17,960

Lodge No. 4, in "H" Street. This is the new Lodge with large accommodations, immediately connected with the office of the Paymaster for discharged soldiers. It was opened about the 1st of February.

Number of nights' lodging furnished at Lodge No. 4, from February 1st to Oct. 1st	9,832
Number of meals furnished	50,096

This relief station consists of six buildings. A dormatory of a hundred beds: a dining-room, seating about one hundred, with a large kitchen attached: a baggage-room, where all the discharged men coming in to be paid off can deposit their baggage, receiving a check for it: a storehouse: quarters for the guard: and a building containing the office of the Free Pension Agency, office of the Medical Examiner for pensions, and ticket office for the Railroad agent, selling through-tickets to soldiers at reduced rates of fare.

All disabled soldiers discharged directly from the Army of the Potomac or from the Hospitals in this vicinity come to the Paymaster's office, which is within this same inclosure, to be paid off. Government can no longer hold itself directly responsible for these men, and here is where we take them up. Yet Government cordially cooperates in our work, furnishing to the Commission part of these very buildings, and giving such army rations at this Lodge as we can use for these men advantageously with our other supplies.

The object of the whole thing at this Lodge is this, viz.: so to supply to the discharged soldier close at his hand and without a cent of cost, all that he needs—food, lodging, assistance in correcting his papers, aid in looking up his claims, help in obtaining his pension and his bounty—such that there can be no excuse or opportunity for the soldier to put himself or be put into the hands of claim agents and sharpers, or to go out and expose himself to the temptations of the city.

To secure this end, every man who comes to the paymaster with his discharge, at once receives a ticket insuring him care and a helping hand; and by an arrangement with the paymaster, whenever a man appears with defective papers, he is at once referred to the Relief Office for assistance or advice. The work at that office occupies three persons constantly, besides those who go with cases that have to be looked up personally at the hospitals or with the regimental officers in the field, and cannot be arranged by correspondence.

To indicate something of the kind of work done here, I make the following extract from the report of Mr. J. B. Abbott, who has served most faithfully and efficiently as Assistant Special Relief Agent, with his office at Lodge No. 4, and upon whom almost the entire responsibility in this department for the past year has rested.

"At this office and Lodge No. 4, from Jan'y 1st to Oct. 1st, 1863, the number of discharged soldiers whose accounts against the Government have been settled through our assistance, men who were too feeble to attend to settling their own accounts, or who were unable to obtain their pay, because of some charge against them on the pay-rolls, or some errors in their papers, 2,130."

Information and directions have been given relative to settling pay accounts, collecting arrears of pay, extra duty pay, commutation money to about 9,000 men.

The aggregate value of the 2,130 cases amounted to $130,159.01. This amount was collected and paid to the soldiers through this office.

But for the gratuitous aid thus afforded these soldiers discharged from the service, disabled by wounds or worn down by long marches and exposure in the field, or enfeebled by disease, anxious to get home, would have applied to "Claim Agents" for aid in obtaining speedily their dues from the Government, submitting willingly to pay a commission ranging from 10 to 40 per cent. These agents, with some rare and admirable exceptions, in four cases out of every five, impede the settlement of accounts instead of facilitating them.

Taking 10 per cent. as an average, which is the lowest commission usually charged by Claim Agents, the amount saved to the soldiers in adjusting the 2,130 cases of which a record has been kept, is shown to be $13,015.90. Add to this 10 per cent. of the probable aggregate value of the 9,000 cases in which information and directions have been given, (for in most of these cases the soldiers would otherwise have gone to Claim Agents,) and the amount saved to the soldiers through the Commission by this office is shown to be at least $70,000 during nine months ending Sept. 30th.

The number of letters written in adjusting the above cases of sufficient importance to make a copy necessary, 2,224.

Many of the cases have been very difficult to adjust, requiring several weeks to complete them. Below I add extracts of two or three cases from a day's record of the Journal, which will show explicitly the character of the cases we adjust and the difficulties we meet with in completing them.

"Serg't Edward W. M. Passage, Company F, 16th Reg't Mich. Vols. Enrolled at Plymouth, Mich., in July, 1861, to serve three years or during the war. 'Discharged by reason of a Surgeon's Certificate of disability, given at Convalescent Camp, April 30th, 1863.' The Commander of the Post being unable to obtain from his Company Commander his descriptive list, the date of last payment could not be given in his final statements, nor his clothing account, except the amount ($3.60) of extra clothing drawn at Convalescent Camp. Left his regiment in June, '62, just previous to the battles before Richmond, having fallen a victim to the malarial fever; was put into one of the corps hospitals for a few days, and then sent to Fortress Monroe, where he remained a short time. He was then transferred to General Hospital in Philadelphia. In this Hospital he received a furlough for thirty days, and went home to Detroit, Michigan. At the expiration of his furlough, being unable to report back to Philadelphia, he reported, as soon as he was able, to the nearest military post, St. Mary's General Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; but not aware of the proper form, did not notify the surgeon in charge of the Hospital in Philadelphia, where he received his furlough; consequently he was marked '*deserter*,' and so reported to his Company Commander, who has borne him as 'a deserter' upon the subsequent pay-rolls.

"While in St. Mary's Hospital, having partially recovered his health, he received papers from Michigan authorizing him to recruit men for the service, at the same time receiving a furlough for twenty days, which was twice extended twenty days. At the expiration of his furlough extensions he reported to the commander of the Military Barracks at Detroit, who reported him for duty and forwarded him to Washington. From Washington he was sent to Convalescent Camp, and there pronounced unfit for military duty and discharged from the service."

"This man was not aware that he was marked 'a deserter' till he applied to the Paymaster-General to get indorsed upon his final statements the date of his last payment. Then he was informed that he was entitled to no pay, being borne 'a deserter' upon the pay-roll. He denied the charge, and was referred by the Chief Clerk to this office for assistance in getting the charge removed.

"We obtained a certificate from the surgeon or physician who attended him after the expiration of his furlough until he reported to St. Mary's Hospital, stating that during this time he was unable to report

because of disability. This certificate was given under oath before a Notary Public. Certificates were also obtained, one by one, from the several military posts where he had been, covering his time from the date he was marked a deserter to the date of his discharge. Upon these certificates we got the charge removed and secured his pay."

"Wm. Benty, private, Company F, 16th Regiment U. S. Infantry, enlisted at Clayton, Iowa, November 6th, 1861. 'Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability,' given at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Md., April 7th, 1863, 'because of a gunshot wound, the ball never having been extracted.' The wound has not healed, and it troubles him very much; he is anxious to get home; says he 'cares very little about his pay, if he can only get home.' He was wounded at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, sent to Hospital, Newport, Kentucky, where he remained nearly three months. The surgeon considered him unfit for military duty, and was willing to give him a discharge, but could not, as he could not obtain his descriptive list. At his own request, the commander of the post gave him a pass to go to his regiment, then in Northern Alabama, to get his descriptive list. On his way back he was taken prisoner by guerrillas, (this was about the 22d of August, 1862,) his money and effects taken from him, and his papers destroyed. He was sent to Chattanooga, thence to Macon, Georgia, and after nearly two months' confinement, was sent to Richmond and paroled on the 18th of October, 1862. At the expiration of his pass, given by the commander of the post at Newport, Kentucky, he had been marked 'a deserter,' as nothing had been heard of him, and so reported to his commanding officer, who marked him 'a deserter' upon the regimental pay-rolls.

"We obtained a certificate from the Commissary-General of paroled prisoners, giving the date of his capture and parole, gathered up one by one all the important facts of the case, and forwarded them to his Company Commander, so that at length we obtained a certificate, certifying that the man had been wrongly marked 'a deserter." Upon this evidence, the charge was removed and his pay secured, amounting to nearly one hundred and fifty dollars.

"This man we furnished transportation home, from money of the 'Ware Fund,' and when his account was settled, we forwarded him a draft for his money."

"George Poole, Company K, 3d Maryland Vols., enrolled in Company C, Baltimore Light Infantry, in Dec., 1861; he was subsequently transferred to Company B. In June, 1862, the Baltimore Light Infantry was consolidated with the 3d Indiana Vols. He was put into Company K, a new company formed at the time of consolidation. Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability given at Convalescent Camp; claims pay from the 28th of Feb'y, 1862, to the date of his discharge, except for the months of January, February, March, and April, 1863, for which months he was paid, except from the 29th of Jan'y to the 19th of Feb.; for this period his pay was deducted, he being marked a 'deserter.' I obtained an official certificate showing that he was not a deserter for this period, and got the charge removed, which entitles him to the amount deducted from his pay. To secure his back pay or get it endorsed upon his final statements, we were obliged to get statements from rolls in the 2d Comptroller's office, 2d Auditor's office, and offices of two regimental paymasters, besides examining several rolls in different accounts on file at the Paymaster-General's office, to verify his statement, or to obtain evidence that he was really entitled to the pay which he claimed.

"Having shown satisfactory evidence to the Pay Department that he was entitled to the pay which he claimed, it was endorsed upon his final statement, and his money secured, amounting to $186.85."

"We are daily completing such cases as the above, and some more complicated, which, except for the aid afforded by the Commission, would have been placed in the hands of claim agents before referred to, who usually charge in such cases from $25 to $50; or the soldiers would have disposed of their claims to some sharper for a passage home, as many of these men are very willing to do, after having been confined in hospitals for months, and anxious to reach their friends; and in such cases the man leaves with the word 'deserter' affixed to him."

"We are greatly indebted to the uniform kindness, consideration, and co-operation that has invariably been extended to us by the officers and clerks of the various Government offices with whom we have had business to perform. I desire especially to mention the names of E. H. Brooks, Esq., chief clerk, Paymaster-General's office, and Major D. Taylor, Paymaster of discharged soldiers."

"In submitting this report, I desire to bear testimony to the faithfulness of my assistants, and their constant interest in the work."

Lodge No. 5, near 6th Street Wharf. This was a small building, but it has rendered valuable service, giving food and shelter to sick or wounded men arriving on the boats from Aquia Creek, and furnishing food to be carried into such boats as, loaded with wounded, had no adequate provision for feeding the men on board.

An ambulance was stationed at this Lodge to take men to the Home, or to Hospitals: the Superintendent of the Lodge visited every boat immediately on its arrival at the wharf, and rendered all assistance and gave all needed information to the sick or wounded, taking those unable to walk in ambulances, and guiding the others to the horse-cars, and furnishing them with tickets to go to the Paymaster's office, or to the Home, or elsewhere, as the case might be.

There was one week, at the time of the breaking up of the Corps Hospitals near Aquia Creek, when we gave coffee and food to over five thousand (5,000) men on board the boats which arrived at the wharf.

The boats came up in such rapid succession, that with all the efficiency of the Medical Director, (and surely no man in the whole Medical Department—I am safe in saying—does or can more fully and admirably unite wise and energetic efficiency with kind and generous humanity, than does Dr. Abbott, the Medical Director at Washington), with all his promptness in having his entire train of ambulances at the wharf waiting night and day, it was simply impossible but that many of these men, numbered by thousands, should be detained often some hours before their turn would come to be removed. Meantime, they needed just the care we were ready to give to them.

This necessity existed, as is seen, from no oversight in having all reasonable provisions made.

And in this connection I may fitly refer, both for the sake of justice to the Medical Department, and as an apology for our own *existence*, to the frequent inquiry uttered, often in a tone of censure, how it is possible, if the Medical officers do their duty, that there can be any opportunity even for this supplementary work of relief.

The question shows utter ignorance of the terrific weight of work of the most complicated and delicate character, which the officers of the Medical Department had upon their hands, and of their constant liability to be called upon at any moment to meet great and unexpected emergencies. The fact is simply this: that while the Medical Department has made a larger and wiser provision for the comfort of the sick and the wounded than the world ever before saw, there is not, and cannot be, a minuteness of detail and a waiting at every corner to give to a fainting soldier a cup of water, such as friends at home in their anxious love ask for. Yet this work needs to be done, and therefore we, who are simply the hands to the people's heart and bounty, do the work. But if the Medical Department were to attempt it in all its minutiæ of detail, their power for their own hundred-fold greater work would be weakened in a way that would find no justification.

But to return from this digression: this Lodge, No. 5, was removed a month since to Maryland Avenue, near the R. R. Station, where it is doing the same work for the sick or wounded arriving by cars from the Army, which was formerly done on the wharf, for those arriving by boats.

The whole number of nights' lodging furnished at this building from Jan. 1st to Oct. 1st..... 1,620
Meals..... 14,590

Closely connected with the work at the Relief Station in Maryland Avenue is the Lodge at Alexandria, located within the stockade, near the railway track and junction, where all the cars to and from the Army stop. Here there is a Lodge 16 feet by 90, with an L 24x32, furnished with all conveniences of gas and water, and admirably arranged and conducted by Mr. James Richardaon, Special Relief Agent. Alexandria is now the "Gateway of the Army of the Potomac," and whenever a train of sick or wounded is coming in, a telegram is sent in advance from the front, and when the train arrives at this point food is ready for them and distributed among them while the train is waiting. Here, too, are often gathered at night sick men who arrive too late to go on to Washington, or who are unexpectedly delayed. A sign upon the office of Col. Devereux reads, "All sick, wounded, and invalid soldiers are requested to report to the Sanitary Commission Lodge."

The necessity for the existence of this Relief Station is indicated by the fact that during the first week after it was opened 1,761 meals were given here.

In January last "The Nurses' Home" was opened, under the care of Mrs. Dr. Caldwell, in Washington, near the Special Relief Office.

The Nurses' Home has proved a source of immense relief to nurses arriving in the city, and to those worn down by service at the hospitals and needing a few days of quiet and rest, and also to the wives and mothers, and sometimes daughters, of soldiers, who have come on seeking their husbands, or sons, or fathers, in the various hospitals. We have had a very large number, during the past two months, of this latter class to care for, who, utterly ignorant of the cost of the journey, and of obtaining board and lodging, even for a day or two, in the city, were utterly destitute and helpless. A number who were weary and almost broken-hearted have been received here as at a home. A number of refugees, also—mothers and little children—have been received here and warmed and clothed. This has proved in its working one of the *kindest* charities of the Commission.

Since the "Nurses' Home" was opened, in January, the total number of nights' lodging given here has been	1,583
Meals furnished	3,040
Number of different women sheltered and admitted	1,190
Total cost to Commission, about	$2,300

In regard to the Free Pension Agency, I make the following extract from the Report of Mr. Bascom, the Director:

"The Pension Agency of the Sanitary Commission commenced its work on the 10th of February, 1863, and up to this date (Oct. 1st) 985 applications for invalid pensions have been made from this office, and the necessary papers filed in the Government Pension Bureau."

The Agency has proved a beneficent one to the soldiers in many ways.

1. "It has saved to them already an aggregate expense of more than *six thousand dollars*, ($6,000,) and at the same rate will save in a year over ten thousand ($10,005.)

2. "It has rescued them from imposition, annoyance, and a great amount of trouble, in ascertaining in what way to procure their pensions.

3. "It has aided a considerable number of soldiers to obtain complete testimony to sustain their claims after their regularly appointed and paid attorneys have refused, unless with additional fees, to procure essential evidence.

4. "It has also come to the relief of several who had employed and paid attorneys whom the Pension Office has refused, on account of some misconduct, to recognize as attorneys in any case.

"Finally, the Agency has been of no small service to the Government, in procuring and forwarding *all* the testimony bearing upon a claim—that which makes against a case, as well as that which makes for it. In this way it will undoubtedly save many hundreds of dollars to the Government in a moderate length of time."

Agency for getting Back Pay for Soldiers in Hospitals.—It was found that very many soldiers in hospitals had various amounts of back pay due them, which their families sorely needed, but which was so tied up, that it could not be collected without an amount of investigation and labor which the Paymasters had no right to bestow upon individuals.

An agent of the Commission, authorized by the Paymaster-General's Chief Clerk, has entered upon the work of obtaining the necessary information in each such case, so as to enable the Chief Clerk to furnish to the man a certificate of the pay due to him, so that he can draw his money upon it.

The report of Mr. Neal, the agent of the Commission, shows that in Stanton Hospital alone, during the first week of his work, the back pay of 56 men was thus collected. Some of it had been due six or eight months, and the men had been mustered and paid for intermediate months, leaving this which was due in the position of an old debt. The total amount of money thus put into the hands of these 56 men (almost every dollar of which, as I learned, was sent to their homes by the chaplain,) was over $3,000. The detail of this work involves much painstaking labor, but its results amply repay for the time, expense, and care.

Another agency connected with the Special Relief Office has been the work of seeking to guard the discharged soldiers while scattered through the city from being robbed or foully dealt with. For this purpose during the past six months we have employed, besides a relief agent, a "Detective," who visits the R. R. Station and all the places of resort, and whose duty it has

been to watch for and bring to justice all persons who were imposing upon the soldiers, detaining them, leading them astray, or committing fraud upon them; and the city is full of men who are thus lying in wait for the soldier. This detective, by means which need not be specified, has rendered great service, and his work is not ended.

The Relief Station and branch of the "Home" at "Convalescent Camp," Alexandria, near Fort Albany, is still under the care of Miss Amy M. Bradley, formerly matron of the "Home."

The whole work is managed efficiently and with great success. She has the confidence and co-operation of all the officers in charge of the *Corps*, and daily she comes with ambulances into Washington, to the Paymaster's office, and to the "Home" and Railway station, bringing the sick and discharged men who have been receiving her care.

Miss Bradley's report of the past nine months' labor in this camp of some five thousand men, shows what an amount of work can be done, relief afforded, influence exerted by one individual thoroughly in earnest, and with resources at hand.

Tickets directing the bearer to call at the Sanitary Commission Lodge, for such articles as the Surgeon may specify, are put into the hands of all the surgeons and officers in the camp, and as occasion calls these tickets are filled out and given to the invalids who need supplies. In this way, since June 1st, (four months,) Miss Bradley has distributed from the stock kept constantly on hand, some four thousand of shirts, drawers, socks, &c., besides some 10,000 smaller articles, such as towels, handkerchiefs, slippers, and the like. Previous to April, at which time regular hospitals were first established here, Miss Bradley, in hospital tents attached to the Lodge, attended to the very ill, receiving there during that time 125 sick men.

She accompanied to Washington to the Paymaster's office during four months, and assisted many of the more feeble in getting their pay, discharged soldiers whose united pay amounted to over $100,000.

In the camp she visits and writes letters for the sick, and in all ways practicable ministers "special relief."

It has been a good work, and I may fitly mention, that under the wise executive management of Lieut.-Col. McKelvey, the name "Convalesent Camp" no longer is associated with suffering, but is synonymous with care, comfort, and kind and liberal provision for all that the convalescent soldier needs.

The cost to the Commission of maintaining this branch of its work in Washington and vicinity, from Dec. 25th, 1862, to Oct. 1st, 1863, has been about $24,500. This does not include nine hundred and eighty dollars used from the "Ware Fund," so called, money placed in my hands for purposes which do not so legitimately come within the original work of the Commission, but which yet has an earnest claim. Thus with that money we have sent to their homes discharged soldiers who were destitute, or almost entirely destitute of means:—many fathers, mothers, and wives of soldiers;—some families of refugees who came to us in the saddest condition of want, and Army nurses from the front, sick or worked down by devoted labor.

Could I give a simple picture—in one group, as they pass before me—of all the persons who have been helped by the few hundred dollars, entering with their anxious faces, their camp-worn or travel-worn garments, some in mourning, some very aged and bowed down, and some as little children, it would be a picture that with warm breath would breathe a blessing, which could be felt by the very heart of all those who have furnished the means for these additional charities.

(The remainder of this report upon Special Relief, embracing a statement of the work at the North and West, will appear in the next number.)

REPORT FROM THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

STEVENSON, ALA., Oct. 10, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

Sec'y Western Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

DEAR SIR—I regret that I am as yet unable to furnish you a detailed report of the operations of the Sanitary Commission in connection with the battles of Chickamauga

on the 19th and 20th ult. For the present I must beg you to gather an idea of the situation, so far as the Commission is concerned, from the hastily written letters and telegrams I have sent you from time to time, and from Rev. Mr. Heywood, who accompanied me to the front, and who returned some time since to Louisville. I can only at present give you an outline sketch, which I beg you to "fill in" with material already on hand.

Ever since the occupation of Chattanooga by our forces, our sole means of communication between that point and the railroad at Stevenson and Bridgeport have been by wagons over the Cumberland Mountains by two routes, the one being about 45 and the other about 60 miles from this place. The difficulties in the way of transportation were great, but not insurmountable. On the 17th of September seven army wagon-loads of well-selected stores were safely landed in Chattanooga, and on the 23d—thanks to the energy and perseverance of Mr. Murdrell, hospital steward of the 93d Ohio, three more loads were added to the stock. These stores constituted almost the entire dependence of the hospitals at Chattanooga until the Tuesday and Wednesday succeeding the battles. On those days trains containing portions of the Medical Purveyor's stores reached the front; thus furnishing another instance of the necessity of independent medical transportation.

On Monday the 21st, partly because of the pressing necessities of the hospitals, partly because of possible military contingencies, the order was given to distribute all the sanitary and medical stores on hand among the hospitals, and by Tuesday evening the Commission's rooms were cleared of their contents, and were occupied by our wounded men. Those who had not fallen into the hands of the enemy were made measurably comfortable. Dr. Read, who had been ailing for some time, and who had now, in addition, a wounded son thrown upon his hands, started on Tuesday, the 22d of September, with his son, and accompanied by Mr. M. C. Read, for the rear. The doctor, as I learned, (I passed him on the road without seeing him,) spent some time at Nashville, and then proceeded in search of much-needed rest at his home in Ohio. Mr. M. C. Read established his quarters at Stevenson, the principal depot for supplies, and commenced the reorganization of his department at this point. Mr. Redding, the storekeeper at Chattanooga, finding his occupation gone for the time being, returned to Bridgeport with the intention of accompanying such stores as could be transported over the mountains. Having started Mr. Larrabee to accompany six loads from Bridgeport, he came on to Stevenson, procured and loaded ten more wagons, and started with them for Chattanooga. On the day succeeding another wagon was added to another train, thus placing seventeen army wagon-loads on the road at one time. Various causes, among which was a remarkably heavy rain, conspired to delay the foremost trains, and at the time of the rebel raid five trains containing these seventeen wagons had accumulated near the foot, and on the hither side of the mountain. All were burned except a few loaded with forage, which were so wet that they could not be thus destroyed. Mr. Redding escaped, as did also Mr. Wm. Andrew. Larrabee had missed his train entirely, and reached Chattanooga before the attack. Dr. Barnum, the only remaining agent of the Commission at "the front," reported to Dr. Perin, the Medical Director of the department, for such duty as might be assigned him in caring for the wounded, and was assigned to temporary duty at U. S. General Hospital No. 1. On Tuesday Mr. Eno having inquired by courier from Bridgeport, as to the special wants at Chattanooga, dispatched some fifteen ambulance loads which were taken possession of at the General Field Hospital on the north side of the river. On Friday morning I reached Bridgeport, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Heywood and Mr. Bishop, and reached Chattanooga on the evening of Saturday, the 26th of September. The report of the former you have already received verbally, and those of the latter have been transmitted to the Hospital Directory as opportunity offered. Mr. Bishop has been very materially assisted in the labor of collecting the statistics of the killed, wounded and missing by Mr. M. D.

Bartlett, of Wisconsin, and has received some aid from others who came to the front as the accredited agents of the Sanitary Commission.

* * * * * *

One peculiarity of the situation here is the difficulty of transportation already alluded to, but, because of its bearing upon our work, of sufficient importance to call for more special mention. By the destruction of the bridge at Bridgeport, and the occupation of Lookout Mountain by the rebels, we were deprived of railroad communication with Chattanooga on the one hand, and on the other were cut off from the best route for wagon transportation. Two wagon roads over the mountain on the north side of the Tennessee River, which would elsewhere and under other circumstances be considered almost impassable, furnish the only available routes for the transportation of the *materiel* of war, the subsistence of troops, &c. This has very much impeded the work of the Commission in connection with the movements of the army beyond Bridgeport. Notwithstanding that every effort possible has been made at both ends of the route, the amount of transportation available for our purposes has been far short of the demand upon our stores, and of our ability otherwise to meet these demands. On the 17th ult., as already mentioned, seven wagon-loads, on the 23d, three wagon-loads, and on the 26th one wagon-load, and on the 29th fifteen ambulance loads of stores were all that could be got forward to the front during the month of September. Thus far this month we have been able to get but eight wagon-loads to Chattanooga. Besides these, four have gone in our service to the foot of the mountain with the appliances for the Lodge, and fifteen loads started for Chattanooga yesterday. Besides this, matters are now so far systematized that we can certainly depend on a certain amount of transportation in every train. All the stores which have gone forward were carefully selected, and have been of incalculable service. Besides these there have been frequent, and in some cases quite liberal distributions from the depots at Bridgeport and Stevenson upon requisitions of corps and division surgeons for the front; to the post hospitals at these places, and all along the route as far as Nashville, the wounded who were able to get forward have been constantly receiving such aid and comfort as were adapted to their necessities.

Thus much in a general way; the reports from Dr. Barnum, Dr. Castleman, Mr. Read, and of the disbursements from the various depots, all hereto appended, will give you the exact particulars connected with the supply department.

Such general inspection as I was enabled to make during my stay, indicated a very satisfactory state of health and feeling among our troops. Though not "exultant," or "panting to be led against the enemy," as newspaper reporters would have it, (there are few raw troops in this army,) they are in good heart, and ready to move at the word of command wherever their duty leads. Where half the time is spent in the trenches, and the other half in camps crowded together to the utmost state of compactness, perfect neatness of person and surroundings is impossible. They manage, however, to make themselves moderately comfortable with the appliances at their disposal, and their quarters show that considerable attention is paid to the observance of the conditions of health.

* * * * * *

In no one matter has our operations been more delayed by the difficulty of transportation than in the establishment of our "Mountain Lodge." On the 28th ult. I laid the plan for the establishment of a resting and feeding place on the ambulance route, for the benefit of the wounded in transitu, midway between Chattanooga and Stevenson, before Surgeon Perin, Medical Director of the Department. It at once received his hearty approbation, and the promise of every necessary aid. I readily procured the consent of Rev. O. Kennedy, Chaplain of the 101st Ohio, an excellent man, with a head, a heart and a hand always ready for any good work, to take charge of the Lodge, and have taken the liberty to appoint him an agent of the Commission for that purpose. Some delay was experienced in procuring the proper "detail" from his regiment, and he came to this place *via* the ambulance route, selecting the locality for the Lodge on the way.

After much delay and many disappointments he started on the 9th with the tents, stores and furniture, and we can say with as much certainty as of any future event, that it will be in complete running order in time for the next train of wounded men. The deprivations and sufferings of those on the two trains which have already come over that dreaded passage, have convinced every one of the necessity of the Lodge, and there is no room for fear for the future in this regard. It is expected that each ambulance train will so arrange its movements as to stop at that point, where there is an abundance of wood and water, and will be abundance of wholesome, palatable food, and of kind attention, for a good night's rest. The Chaplain has been indefatigable in his efforts to get the matter speedily and properly under way, and his former labors in connection with his regiment and in the hospital service furnish every necessary guarantee that this service will be administered faithfully and well.

Mr. Bishop has been busily engaged, in the face of many discouragements, in procuring accurate lists of the casualties in the recent battles; pressing into the service such aid as was available. You will remember that he started from Louisville immediately after the battles, with two assistants for that special service, Dr. Hillman and Mr. Wharton, both of the Directory office. It was thought best to leave Mr. W. at Nashville to accompany a carload of stores on the next train. At Tullahoma we met a train of eighteen cars, loaded with the wounded who had worked their way to the railroad terminus, and who had been embarked without food or surgical assistance. Quartermaster-Gen. Meigs, for whom the train had been specially dispatched, and who kindly permitted our party to accompany him, ordered the men to be fed by the only hotel in the town, and Dr. Hillman, and an Indiana surgeon —name not remembered—were placed in charge to care for the wounded until they could be regularly relieved. Dr. Hillman found so much of that kind of service required along the road, and the difficulties of reaching Chattanooga so great, that he continued rendering such assistance as he could in that direction until Tuesday, the 29th, when he started for the front with one of the trains, which afterwards fell into the hands of the enemy. I regret exceedingly that I am unable to give further tidings of him. The General Hospitals have already commenced the transmission of reports to us, and as rapidly as possible all the hospitals will assume a more or less permanent form, and report daily to the office at Louisville.

I returned to this point from Chattanooga on the 5th inst., and expect to start for Louisville in two or three days. The work of the Commission has been reorganized here, and the force is distributed as follows: M. C. Read and Mr. Redding are at Chattanooga; Chaplain Kennedy and Larrabee are to manage, assisted by the necessary number of detailed men, the "Mountain Lodge;" and F. R. Crary has charge of the stores and work of the Commission at this point, assisted by Ira Place, the depot at Bridgeport having been withdrawn. With the exception of Chaplain Kennedy, of whom I have already spoken, you are well acquainted with the working character and abilities of these various representatives of the Commission in the field. Besides these, it is proper to make special mention of the labors of William Andrew, Esq., of Indiana, sent out by you to inspect, on the ground, the workings of the Commission; and of Mr. James Calvert, of Kentucky. The former has neglected no opportunity to alleviate the sufferings by which he was surrounded; to this end constantly laboring as a volunteer dresser in the hospitals, and accompanying a train of wounded on its three days' journey from Chattanooga to this point, and another from this to Nashville. The latter, so soon as he had assured himself of the safe deliverance of his three sons from the perils of the late battles, reported himself to me for such service as might be assigned him.

The two pressing wants at that time were the safe transmission of stores and the names of killed and wounded for the Directory; he preferred to undertake to supply the former need.

* * * * * *

On Tuesday, the 29th ult., and on Thursday, the 1st inst., ambulance trains were dispatched to the field for our wounded

left in the hands of the enemy. All who were severely wounded were paroled and brought in—those more slightly wounded being reserved for regular exchange, via Richmond. The men are uniform in their testimony as to the neglect and consequent suffering they experienced. Officers and men, including the surgeons who remained to take care of the wounded, were, in almost all cases, deprived of their blankets, overcoats, and in many instances shoes and other wearing apparel; they were robbed of the contents of their pockets—"greenbacks" being especially sought after. The food left for their subsistence was taken from them, and corn-meal and water furnished in its stead. They likewise suffered greatly from the impossibility of having their wounds properly attended to—the rebels having taken from our surgeons the greater portion of the appliances left for them—including instruments and bandages. The ambulances sent with a flag of truce for the wounded, ten days after the battle, and delivered into the hands of the enemy at their lines, were returned robbed of everything movable, and in many cases broken-down horses substituted for those sent out. These matters are referred to as affording another instance of the chivalrous character of our foe and of the manner in which he *practices* the amenities of war, of which none better than he can *speak*.

Notwithstanding the disagreeabilities, general and special, which have attended this campaign, and succeeded these battles, our soldiers are still the rare heroes they have hitherto shown themselves to be after the battles on the Peninsula, before Vicksburg and at Stone River. Suffering is borne with a bravery which is truly splendid; there is everywhere the *camaraderie* of veteran campaigners, and self-abnegation is often manifested worthy of the highest type of the Christian. That such a people battling in such a cause as ours should so suffer at the hands of such a foe, fighting for so infernal a cause, must even remain *here*, among the most inscrutable of the dispensations of an all-wise and all-good Providence.

Very respectfully,
GEO. L. ANDREW,
Medical Inspector.

REPORTS PRESENTED AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, HELD AT WASHINGTON, D. C., OCT. 6–9, 1863.

1.—Report of the Executive Committee.

2.—Report of the Committee on Reorganization.

3.—Report of the Treasurer.

4.—Report of the Auditing Committee.

5.—Report of Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, General Secretary, communicating the following reports:

A.—Report to the United States Sanitary Commission on the operations of the Eastern Branch, by Lewis H. Steiner, Chief Inspector of the Army of the Potomac, and Acting Associate Secretary, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink concerning the Hospitals in Washington, August 8th, 1863.

b.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink upon Hospitals in the District of Columbia, August 17th, 1863.

c.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink on the Hospitals in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 10th, 1863.

d.—Report of Dr. C. W. Brink on the 10th Regiment New York Artillery, garrisoning forts beyond the Eastern Branch, Sept. 13th, 1863.

e.—Report of Special Inspection at Annapolis, Md., by Dr. Julius Nichols, August 20th, 1863.

f.—Report of Dr. Julius Nichols, Sanitary Inspector, on Baltimore Hospitals, Sept. 2d, 1863.

g.—Thirty-four Reports from Relief Agents, Army of the Potomac, as follows:

Mr. N. Murray, 2d Corps. August 17, and September 27.

David S. Pope, 6th Corps. August 22, 16, 30, and September 5, 13, 20, 27.

Wm. A. Hovey, 1st Corps. August 8, 15, 22, 29, and September 5.

Clemans Soest, 3d Corps. Sept. 1 and 28.

John A. Anderson, 12th Corps. September 6, 3, and 7 to 22.

E. M. Barton, 5th Corps. September 6 and 13, and 6 others.

h.—Report of Dr. Gordon Winslow; account of work at Gettysburg, September 25, 1863.

i.—Eight Reports from James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, Norfolk, Va., from August 9 to September 27.

j.—Report of George C. Caldwell, Ph. D., on Hospital visiting for the months of May, June, July and August.

k.—Report of Dr. Alexander McDonald, Field Inspector, on his capture and imprisonment in Richmond, Va.

l.—Report from Rev. Mr. Scandlin, Relief Agent, same subject.

m.—Report from Gen. Kelly's Department of the Cumberland, October 8, 1863—Dr. Julius Nichols.

B.—Report of F. N. Knapp, Special Relief Agent, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of the "Home," J. B. Clark, Superintendent.

b.—Report of the "Home," T. B. Smith, Surgeon.

c.—Report of Special Relief Station at Convalescent Camp, Virginia—Miss A. M. Bradley.

d.—Report of Special Relief Work at Alexandria—Rev. James Richardson.

e.—Report of Special Relief Work at Baltimore—Sumner Bullard.

f.—Report of Special Relief Work at Annapolis, Md.—Rev. H. C. Henries.

g.—Report of Pension Agent—W. F. Bascom.

h.—Report of Special Relief Work at Boston—John S. Blatchford.

i.—Report relating to local provision for the relief of discharged disabled soldiers and their families, and its administration in Boston, Mass.; prepared under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Boston associates.

C.—Report concerning work in the Statistical Department.—T. J. O'Connell, Chief Clerk to Actuary.

D.—Report of Superintendent of Hospital Directory—John Bowne.

E.—Report concerning the success of the Commission's arrangement for furnishing to the hospitals of this District fresh supplies of meat and vegetables, by F. N. Knapp.

F.—Report concerning supplies and supply-correspondence, by Mr. A. J. Bloor, Assistant Secretary.

6.—Report of Dr. J. S. Newberry, Associate Secretary, concerning the work of the Commission in the Western Department, accompanied by the following reports:

a.—Report of M. C. Read, concerning operations of the Commission at and near Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 24th, 1863.

b.—Report of Dr. Wm. Fithian, of operations of the Commission in Mississippi and Arkansas, Aug. and Sept., 1863.

c.—Report of H. S. Holbrook, Chief Clerk of the Hospital Directory at Louisville, Ky.

d.—Report of Rev. F. H. Bushnell, Hospital Visitor at Louisville and New Albany.

7.—Report concerning the work of the Philadelphia Associates, including a statement of the operations of the Protective War Claim Agency of the United States Sanitary Commission in Philadelphia, by C. J. Stille, Esq., Associate Member.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Dr. E. A. CRANE, Inspector of the Sanitary Commission.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Oct. 18, 1863.

MY DEAR DR.—I am just in from Morris Island; I had hoped to be in season to mail report by the Fulton, but she sails this morning, and I can send you but a line.

During the past fortnight I have visited and inspected —— regiments—the whole command—two regiments excepted, on Morris and Folly Islands.

The results of these inspections are very interesting. Some of the facts developed are such as I had not expected.

Scurvy does not now exist in the command before Charleston, nor has it existed to any great extent among our troops since operations against Charleston have been commenced.

I doubt whether intermittent and remittent fevers are more prevalent than in the Army of the Potomac.

The health of the troops is much above the average obtaining in commands so long employed in field service.

The prevailing diseases are diarrhœa, dysentery, and disabilities peculiar to overworked troops.

Since the reduction of Wagner and Gregg and the lessening of field service, the health of the troops has been steadily improving. * * * * * *

Yours truly,

E. A. CRANE,
Inspector.

Letter from Mr. A. B. DAY, Relief Agent.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Oct. 15, 1863.

DEAR SIR—In addition to the wants of the Commission here of which I advised you in my last, per Arago, I beg to add:

Tea, bed-pans, pillows, bed-sacks, bed-clothing, astringent medicines, Brown's Extract Ginger, and woolen clothing.

We are nearly out of Boston and farina crackers. Antiscorbutics of any kind will be very useful. We still have diarrhœa, dysentery, and malarial fever. Diarrhœa is our chief malady. Our cherry brandy and blackberry cordial is nearly out. We are now sending a barrel full of water, vinegar, sugar, and ginger mixture every day to Gregg and Wagner for the men to drink. They esteem it quite a godsend. If you could send us a cask of ginger, it would be eminently useful. Curried cabbage nearly gone.

Some very complimentary resolutions were passed by the 3d N. H. Regiment at a regimental meeting, and a copy handed in here expressive of their obligations to the Commission. Others, I learn, are coming in soon. * * * * * *

In haste, yours, &c.,

A. B. DAY.

Letter from Chaplain WAYLAND, 7th Regiment Connecticut Vol's.

7TH CONNECTICUT VOL'S, MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Oct. 14, 1863.

REV. H. W. BELLOWS, D.D.,
President U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to inclose $130, (one hundred and thirty dollars,) subscribed by the officers of this regiment, as per subscription paper inclosed.

We are grateful for the relief afforded by the agents of the Commission, among whom I would particularly mention Dr. Marsh, whose efficient action and whose conscientious boldness in preventing any misapplication of the bounty of the Commission, and whose ready and unwearied humanity, were peculiarly noteworthy.

Wishing to your noble charity every success, but yet more fervently hoping that soon its labors may be needless,

I remain, dear sir,

Very truly yours,

H. L. WAYLAND,
Chaplain 7th Conn.

Extract from a Letter from Dr. GEO. A. BLAKE, Inspector at New Orleans, La.

NEW ORLEANS, *Oct.* 16, 1863.

* * * * The other day I supplied deficiencies occasioned by the neglect of some officer, that could be supplied from no other source. The medical department decided to try an experiment—a sea-voyage for convalescents. One hundred and twenty-five soldiers were selected to make a trip to New York and return, on the "Evening Star." The officers of these men left them at Convalescent Camp, without their descriptive rolls, and that being the basis of every issue, no Quartermaster would furnish them even the necessaries of life, much less its comforts. Col. Beckwith, U. S. A., commanding defences of New Orleans, asked me to furnish the men with whatever articles were indispensable for their health and comfort. Accordingly, I visited the barracks—the men were paraded, an inspection made, and their several wants ascertained. I delivered stores to the officer in command, which were distributed to the men aboard ship. The men generally were in a sad plight, without shirts, socks, or blankets, and with thoroughly ventilated pants! Had there been no U. S. Sanitary Commission to give them these substantial comforts, woolen shirts, drawers, socks, quilts, blankets, pants, &c., I believe the experiment of sending feeble, shivering convalescents to a northern latitude, at this season of the year, would have been less productive of good.

Two days ago I received a telegram from

the Medical Director of the 19th Army Corps, at New Iberia, La., to forward, if possible, some woolen shirts and drawers. I sent at once about four hundred. * * * I inclose a communication to the "Stamford (Conn.) Advocate," of Sept. 25, received from some one unknown to me.

"MR. EDITOR—There is in our village a society called Soldiers' Aid Society. In its present plan I believe auxiliary to the Sanitary Commission, U. S. A. Within the past eleven months I have had large opportunities of watching the practical workings of this institution in one of its outposts, and think perhaps a plain statement of a few facts, as I have learned them, might afford encouragement to the ladies engaged in it.

"My first acquaintance with the Sanitary Commission came through a small pamphlet, sent me by its agent, soon after our arrival at Camp Parapet. Following up the invitation contained in it, I made the acquaintance of its agent, and found that through him I could obtain, without circumlocution, the essentials for the housekeeping department of a military hospital, whether in active campaign, or guard duty, or the more settled condition of post, or city hospital, and whether the patients were suffering from disease incident to the locality in which they were situated, or from wounds received in battle. And, Mr. Editor, I wish to bear testimony to the fact that, in all these various conditions, the Sanitary Commission furnishes to the suffering soldier just that kind of delicacy or substantial which a judicious mother or wife would furnish if they had opportunity. I have seen empty old buildings, as by magic, assume in a day the air of comfort and order of arrangement of long-established city hospitals. Not soon shall I cease to warm over the recollection of some of these transformations. For example, men to the number of several hundreds, after the fight at Bisland, were brought to Berwick City in flat-boats, skiffs, and little steamers, wounded in every conceivable manner. They had received all the attention that good medical skill could afford amid the din and smoke of actual conflict, but were so dirty, black, and uncomfortable, as not to be recognized by their most intimate friends, until the renovating hands of tender nurses had washed away their blood and dust, and put on them and their beds clean clothes; all which, not excepting a piece of soap or a row of pins, were furnished by the *model department* of the Gulf, and the Sanitary Commission, sent thence eighty miles over a slow railroad, but in time to do all I have intimated. And I must say, that he who had looked, on the morning of April 18, at the interior of that deserted building in Berwick City, store below and tenements above, its large and small rooms, dusty, cobwebbed, gloomy, and also at the large hall of an adjoining building in the same condition, making in all a floor area of about 1,500 yards, had seen on the following morning every available yard of this space covered with wounded men, *our country's braves*, suffering anguish such as a wounded soldier only knows, without the shadow of comfort; on the same evening again seen all these sufferers arranged in trim rows, on iron bedsteads and good mattresses, clean wounds, clean bandages, clean lint, dressings, &c., clean shirts, clean drawers, clean sheets and pillow-cases, clean wards, with towels, and bowls, and brushes, and rows of pins in their places, tables supplied with vases of flowers, pitchers of ice-water, tumblers, bowls, vials, packages, all in their places, and the poor sufferers sleeping quietly under their musquito nets, all order, all cleanliness, all beautiful, at post hospital No. 2. Anybody, I say, that saw, as I saw, all this, and was not moved with deep gratitude towards the institution that furnished the means for all this magic change, is a character for a cage in a menagerie. This post hospital, No. 2, is but an illustration of Nos. 1, 3, 4, at Berwick City, at the same time, also at Brashear City at different times; also at Lafourche Crossing. In short, it but illustrates what may be at every hospital, extemporized or appointed, in the field or in the city, all over the Department of the Gulf, as no doubt is the case in every department; and if all or any of this is wanting in any case, it is due to negligence on the part of officers in charge of hospitals, not to want of means furnished by Medical Department and Sanitary Commission.

"In conclusion, I would say to friends of the soldier everywhere, send your gifts through the Sanitary Commission, always. They are carefully husbanded and judiciously distributed to those who need them most. Not, as often happens when otherwise sent, some articles accumulating to the extent of a nuisance, in one place, while other articles of real comfort are entirely absent; all unequal and unsatisfactory, to say nothing of the greater liability of the articles sent irregularly being devoured by the army gulls, men, sometimes officers, having no interest in the hospital, through whose hands they must pass.

"God bless the Sanitary Commission, is ever the exclamation of those who know it best.

"W. H. TROWBRIDGE,

"*Ex-Surgeon, 23d Regt. C. V.*"

MEMPHIS, Oct. 18, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

Sec'y Western Dep't U. S. Sanitary Com.:

DEAR SIR—Yours of the 28th ult. arrived here two days since, during my absence at Corinth. I paid a flying visit to this and other points along the railroad, finding no small demand for sanitary stores, especially vegetables. This demand was, as I anticipated, greatly enhanced by the presence in the district of Gen. Sherman's Army Corps on its way to the Department of the Cumberland. At Lagrange this corps had deposited over 100 sick, and at Corinth 300 and more. Besides which were still a small number with each regiment, to remain until the troops should move across the country. The advance of the corps was at Iuka. The 200 barrels of vegetables shipped to Corinth by me one week ago to-day, arrived in time to be largely shared by this corps, and did the maximum amount of service. The only thing I regret is, that the 200 had not been 1,000. It will still be some days before these troops get entirely out of my reach, and after that, many a weary day for them before they get within reach of sanitary stores again. The sick they leave behind will receive prompt attention by the United States Sanitary Commission. But I must have at once a larger amount of stores here. Already the fine large cargo left by the Clara Bell is run low; the vegetables reduced to 20 barrels. We have distributed within the week 500 barrels. I send this morning to Helena 40 barrels on the earnest request of Dr. Weeks, backed by Dr. Fithian, who has gone on an exploration to Little Rock. This leaves me the 20 barrels aforesaid. I shall clearly be compelled to make another draft on the Clara Bell when she arrives, although I had designed to send the whole of her next cargo below. But the demand is lively in this district, aside from the addition created by the movement referred to. Our latest weekly disbursements will show some solid figures. Disbursement reports are forwarded up to last Wednesday; Hospital Directory to the 10th inst.

I saw Surgeon-General Hammond and had a moment's conversation with him. He is undoubtedly restored to favor, although the fact seems not to have transpired yet. He issued an order while here for the erection of one large hospital to be provided with from 1,200 to 1,300 beds. On its completion it is understood that the other general hospitals in this city will be vacated and abandoned. Such purpose being subject, of course, to the modifying changes in the features of war. The work on the new hospital is to commence without delay. Meanwhile, I want potatoes and onions, &c., &c., for immediate use.

Canned milk and canned beef are entirely gone; ditto bedquilts and sheets; ditto shirts and drawers, minus a few. Now or never, let these come.

Yours respectfully,

H. A. WARRINER.

PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

The following correspondence relative to the forwarding supplies of clothing, &c., to soldiers confined in Richmond, was suggested by the report made to the Commission by Dr. McDonald and Mr. Scandlin. These gentlemen, the one an Inspector and the other a Relief Agent of the Commission, were taken prisoners near Emmettsburg, Md., just after the battle of Gettysburg, while they were on their way to the Army of the Potomac with supplies. They were taken to Richmond, and were inmates of "Libby Prison" and "Castle Thunder" for nearly three months. While there they sought every opportunity to benefit their fellow-prisoners, and to get such information as would be of service to those who should hereafter be there confined. They were assured that all supplies sent to the proper authorities would be applied according to the desires of those sending them.

Former experience had given confidence to the Commission that these assurances could be relied on, as invoices previously sent, of clothes and medicines, had reached the parties to whom they were sent. A new basis of exchange required that the present *status* should be inquired into. Hence the correspondence here given:

SANITARY COMMISSION,

CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F STREET,

Washington, D. C., September 29, 1863.

GENERAL—I am informed by Dr. Alex. McDonald, of the Commission, late a pris-

oner at Richmond, (and who, with his companions in captivity, Rev. Mr. Scandlin, also of this Commission, and Leonard Brink, are so much indebted to you for your efforts towards their release, and your personal kindness to them while passing into our lines,) that he was told by Dr. Wilkins, Surgeon in charge C. S. Military Prison Hospital No. 1, (Libby Prison,) that if supplies of clothing, bedding, and reading matter should be sent to his (Dr. Wilkins') care, he would guarantee their distribution among the Union prisoners; and that Capt. G. W. Alexander, A. A. G. and A. P. M., Castle Thunder, made a similar promise as regards reading matter, within his own precincts.

From the statement of Dr. McDonald and Mr. Scandlin it appears that the above supplies are greatly needed by our men now imprisoned there, and that a distribution of such would be of inestimable benefit to them. It is questionable, I suppose, whether, even if once passed within the enemy's lines, they would be permitted to reach their destination; but this Commission would gladly take the merest chance of their doing so, and would willingly risk any trouble and expense in forwarding them over our own lines, provided such a course should involve no violation of military rules and exigencies on our side. Of this you are the judge. In behalf of our brave and unfortunate officers and soldiers now pining, amid want, squallor, and mental inoccupation, in the noisome prisons of the enemy, will you kindly favor the Commission with your decision on this point? If favorable to the project, any suggestions you may see fit to make towards its accomplishment will be welcomed, and, if possible, acted upon.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Asst. Sec'y.

Gen'l S. A. Meredith,
Comm'r for Exchange of Prisoners,
Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Office Commissioner for Exchange,
Fortress Monroe, Va., October 1, 1863.

Alfred J. Bloor, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.:

Sir—On making application to the rebel authorities, I am informed that blankets, clothing, &c., forwarded to our prisoners in Richmond will be duly delivered to them. I yesterday forwarded a statement to this effect to the Commissary-General of Prisoners at Washington. I do not think there is any doubt as to our prisoners receiving what is sent. I would respectfully suggest that you obtain permission from the Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, to send these things; that obtained, I can assure you nothing would give me more pleasure than to forward them, if sent to my care to this place. Very respectfully,

Your obed't serv't,
S. A. MEREDITH,
Brig. Gen'l and Com'r for Exchange.

Sanitary Commission,
Central Office, 244 F Street,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 2*d*, 1863.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit copies of a correspondence between Gen'l S. A. Meredith and myself with reference to this Commission forwarding supplies for the use of Union soldiers now in the hands of the enemy in Libby Prison and Castle Thunder, and to respectfully request your sanction for so doing.

I may add to the information contained in the within correspondence, that Messrs. McDonald and Scandlin—(who were captured by the enemy on the 5th of July, while pushing on from Frederick City to Gettysburg with supplies from the stores of this Commission for the sick and wounded, and were only released last week)—have had, during their nearly three months' imprisonment, first in Libby Prison and afterwards in Castle Thunder, the amplest opportunities for testing in person, as their worn frames and shattered health too plainly testify, the insufferable hardships and humiliations endured by the loyalists in these places of confinement, and for judging to what an extent relief might be afforded by the appliances of this Commission. I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Ass't Sec'y.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,—
WASHINGTON CITY,
October 1863.

MR. ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Ass't Sec'y San'y Com., 244 F Street, Washington, D. C.:

SIR—In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, transmitting correspondence with General Meredith in reference to forwarding sanitary supplies and reading matter to the Union prisoners at Richmond, the Secretary of War directs me to convey to you his consent for the transmission of the articles named through the lines as requested.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAS. A. HARDIE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

The following articles were sent to Richmond, in accordance with this agreement, on the 19th inst.:

600 Woolen Shirts.
600 Canton Flannel Drawers.
600 pairs Woolen Socks.
1000 Handkerchiefs.
2 cases Reading Matter.

That these stores have been delivered to the Confederate authorities we have assurance in the following letter:—

NORFOLK, VA., Oct. 26th, 1863.

DR. L. H. STEINER,
Acting Associate Sec't'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—I called on Gen'l Meredith yesterday, and ascertained that our Richmond supplies had gone forward all right. As soon as Gen'l M. has been notified that the supplies sent by the Government have been received, he is authorized to send whatever Gen'l Dow may think necessary for the comfort of our men on Belle Island and in Richmond. The Gen'l thinks that it will hardly be necessary for the San. Com. to send any more clothing, as the Government has authorized him to supply whatever is needed in that way, but to confine ourselves to articles of food, delicacies, &c. Very respectfully yours,
JAMES GALL, JR., *Relief Agent.*

Letters to prisoners at Richmond should be of one page, sent open, to care of Brig. Gen. S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange, Fortress Monroe, Va.

SELECTIONS.

Extracts from a Chapter on WATER in SURGEON-GENERAL HAMMOND'S TREATISE ON HYGIENE.

Drinking Waters.—The only waters which are fit for drinking (excluding from this head the mineral waters, which are properly medicinal) are rain water, river water, and spring or well water.

A water to be suitable for this purpose should be free from any considerable quantity of organic or mineral constituents, and consequently colorless, and without any peculiar odor or taste. At 30° Fahrenheit and 30 inches of the barometer one hundred volumes of water contain about five volumes of air. The large quantity of water imbibed by an individual renders it a matter of great importance that substances of a deleterious character should not be present, or if they are, that they should be capable of being readily removed.

The army surgeon is frequently called upon to decide as to the fitness of water for the use of the troops, both for drinking and washing, and he should therefore be enabled to make a correct decision, and to suggest the means that may be available for the purification of such water as requires it. For these purposes very few appliances, in the way of apparatus and tests, are required.

All waters of the class under consideration, except rain water, contain lime and chlorides, and frequently other mineral substances, in solution. The lime is in combination with either carbonic or sulphuric acid, or both, and the chlorides are those of sodium, magnesium, or potassium. It is probable that so far from being injurious, these matters, when not present in too great proportion, are rather beneficial to the organism than otherwise. When, however, they exist in large quantity, they produce intestinal disturbance, and the lime salts undoubtedly give rise to calculi in the kidneys or bladder. River water is also often, as has been said, loaded with other impurities. Some of these are of such a character as to cause serious diseases in those who use the water in which they are found, and are sometimes so abundant as to be destructive to the fish living in them.

The earthy matters which are so abundant in some of our western river waters almost invariably cause diarrhœa in those who are unaccustomed to their use, though this effect gradually ceases to be produced if the drinking of the water is persisted in.

In the selection of sites for camps, hospitals, barracks, etc., the medical officer is often consulted with reference to the char-

acter of the water. In the field it is frequently impossible to camp troops in positions which afford good drinking water, but in the location of hospitals and permanent works this end can generally be insured. It should be recollected that no one sanitary element is of more importance than the one under consideration. I have known stations selected without the least regard to the character of the water; where this was so loaded with saline matters that the men were almost constantly affected with diarrhœa, or so contaminated with organic substances that putrefaction commenced in a few hours after it was brought to the quarters. * * * *

Organic matters are frequently present in water, and give it qualities which render it deleterious. They may be either gaseous or morphological, as portions of decomposing vegetable or animal remains, infusoria, algæ, fungi, etc. Water in which such matters are found readily becomes putrescent, and is most noxious to the health of those who use it as a drink, producing diarrhœa and fever. * *

Examination of Drinking Water.—By ascertaining the specific gravity of the water to be tested, a rough idea of the *quantity of solids* contained in it can be obtained. Kirwan gives the following formula for this purpose, which he states will generally indicate the proportion within one or two per cent.

Deduct from the specific gravity of the water the number 1000, and multiply the difference by 1-4, the product will represent the quantity of solid contents. It gives the weight of the salts in their most desiccated state, and consequently freed from their water of crystallization. The weight of fixed air must be also included.

Thus, if the water under examination possess a specific gravity of 1015, the 1000 subtracted from this sum leaves 15, which multiplied by 1-4, gives 21, the number of parts of solid matter in 1000 parts of the water. A better plan is to evaporate to dryness a certain amount of water, and to weigh the solid residue.

Sulphuric acid is most readily detected by solution of chloride of barium, by the action of which a heavy white precipitate of sulphate of baryta is produced.

Chlorhydric acid is indicated by solution of nitrate of silver, by which a flaky precipitate of chloride of silver, soluble in liquor ammoniæ, is thrown down.

Sulphuretted hydrogen, if present, forms, with solution of acetate of lead, a brown precipitate of sulphuret of lead. In water containing *lead*, sulphuretted hydrogen, when passed through it, gives a like precipitate.

Lime gives, with oxalate of ammonia, a white precipitate of oxalate of lime.

Magnesia is indicated by liquor ammoniæ, which separates it as a light flaky precipitate.

Iron forms, with tincture of galls, a black precipitate of tannate of iron; with ferrocyanide of potassium, a dark-blue precipitate of ferrocyanide of iron is formed.

Organic Constituents.—The organic constituents of water when not in solution are readily detected by means of the microscope.

Organic matters, when in solution, can be most satisfactorily discovered by means of solution of permanganate of potassa. This salt gives a bright-red color to the distilled water in which it is dissolved, which hue is entirely removed on subjecting it to the action of organic matter. We have thus a valuable means of detecting impurities which would otherwise escape observation. The method of proceeding is very simple. A drop of saturated solution of permanganate of potassa, or of Condy's disinfectant fluid, (which consists of a solution of alkaline permanganates,) added to a half pint of distilled water, gives to it a beautiful pink color, which will remain permanent for a long time; but if the same quantity be added to any ordinary drinking water, the permanganate is decomposed by the organic matter present, and the characteristic color is destroyed as soon as found. If there be much organic matter present, more of the solution will be required to produce any color at all; and, by the quantity used to cause the formation of a permanent pink tinge, we draw our conclusions relative to the purity of the water examined. The presence of minute particles of organic matter is also readily indicated by this reagent. * * * *

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

[From Prof. Jacob's Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania.]

This battle of three days will compare in magnitude and far-reaching consequences, with any of the great battles of modern times. In the battle of Waterloo, the Allies had 72,000, the French 80,000 men; in this the rebels had 90,000, the Federals about 60,000 men. The British had 186 cannon, the French 252; the rebels had upwards of 200, and we an equal number. The Allies lost 20,000 in killed and wounded; the French 40,000 in killed, wounded, prisoners, and deserted; the Federals lost about 4,000 killed, 12,000 wounded and 4,000 prisoners, or in all about 20,000; whilst the rebels lost 5,500 killed, 21,000 wounded, and 9,000 prisoners and 4,000 stragglers and deserters, or a total of about 40,000. The proportion of men and of losses in both battles is nearly the same.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., President, New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Vice-President, Washington, D. C.
J. Foster Jenkins, M.D., General Secretary, New York City.
George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
G. W. Cullom, U. S. A.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.
Horace Binney, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn.
Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.
J. Huntington Wolcott, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Fairman Rogers, Philadelphia, Penn.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

The office of the Directory will be open daily from 8 o'clock, A. M., to 8 o'clock, P. M., and in urgent cases applicants ringing the door-bell will be received at any hour of the night.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army. The hospital statistics in this department of the Sanitary Commission are very complete and exact, and daily prove of incalculable value to the soldiers, their friends and relatives.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Columbus, Ohio.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn.—L. Crane, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio———, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio—Clark Warren, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn.—C.W. Christy, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Lodge, Vicksburg, Miss.—T. Way, Sup't.

AGENCY FOR PENSIONS.

William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Washington, D. C.

HOSPITAL CARS.

Between Washington and New York—Sol. Andrews, M. D., Surgeon in charge.
Between Louisville and Murfreesboro'—Dr. J. P. Barnum, Surgeon in charge.

SANITARY STEAMERS.

New Dunleith on the Mississippi River, and Elizabeth on the Potomac River.